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## The Prospector, May 2, 2023

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# THE PROSPECTOR

VOL. 108, NO. 16  
MAY 2, 2023

## Parting words from the President

We're days away from commencement – one of the most important days in your life. Many of you who will cross the stage started at UTEP the same time I did. There are moments when it seems like a long time ago, and others when I'm amazed at how fast the last four years have gone.

There are about 3,000 graduates who will cross the stage in a few weeks. Two things are likely true for all of you.

First, you are not the same person you were before you started here. You've learned new skills, developed a deeper awareness of yourself and the world, and stepped up to confront unprecedented challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic. Ideally, you have become a better version of yourself.

Second, none of you got here alone. It may have been parents and grandparents, spouses and friends, mentors and teachers who helped you when you needed it. The appropriate response to that help is gratitude. Simple gratitude. Amid the hubbub of finals, graduation photos, and celebrations, I hope you take a moment to thank those who helped you on your journey.

No matter what, you will always be a UTEP Miner. We want you to stay in touch with us and with each other as you start a new chapter of your life. There are many ways to stay involved as an alumnus and a community member, and remember this: you will always have a home here at UTEP. Congratulations to each of you and to your families.

Dr. Heather Wilson

President



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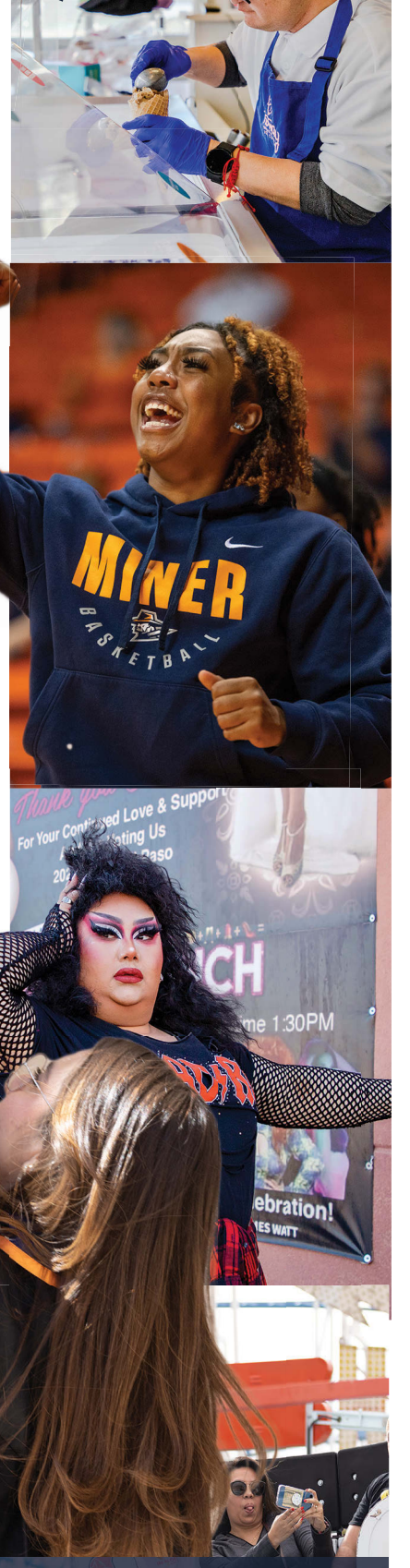
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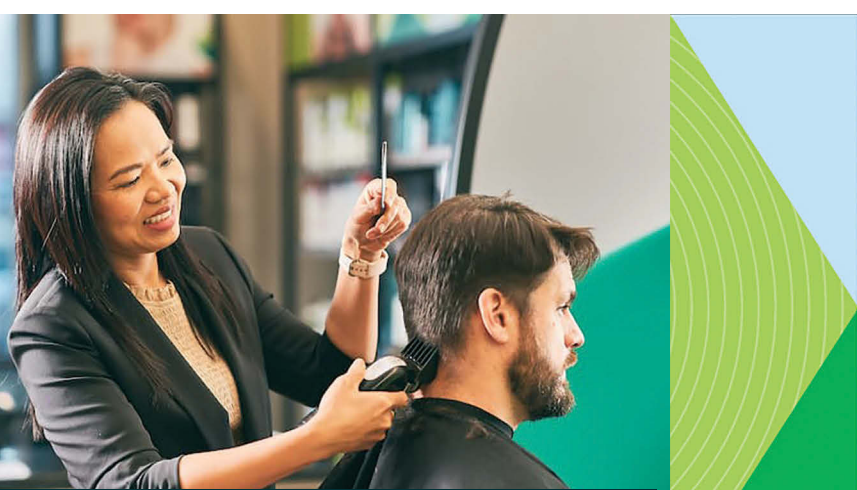
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# Opinion

Itzel Giron, editor-in-chief



## A goodbye I wish I did not have to say yet

BY MARIA L. GUERRERO  
The Prospector



I started writing this at the beginning of the semester just because I wanted to look back at how I felt and compare it to how I feel now.

Starting Jan. 6, I am sitting in my room trying to take it all in, the semester only a few days away from beginning a workload ahead of me, but I am nowhere near ready to leave college. I have so much waiting for me this semester that I am afraid if I do not appreciate it enough or take the time to realize where I am standing and learning. I have come a long way, from waking up at 4:30 a.m. during my freshman year so I could walk the border and be on time for my 9 a.m. class, to feeling the rattling beat of my heart

due to the financial stress I had these four and a half years. Despite all the tears, sweat and late nights, I would not change a thing. I am extremely happy with the choices I made that led me to this moment, I cannot picture my college experience any differently, because in reality, I did not have any expectations, I let life surprise me.

I would have never imagined that I would end up being part of my university's newspaper, let alone the editor-in-chief of the magazine. I was always full of self-doubts, that I thought I would finish college and feel like I did not accomplish anything in life. Now, a lot of people might think that being part of student media is not that big of a deal, but you have no idea how fulfilling this experience was. Not only does

it give you work experience, but it gives you so many great friendships that you will treasure forever. They always say how the friends in college are the ones you keep forever and I thought they were lying, until I met my shawties.

Itzel, Anahy, Emily, Vicky, Victoria, Hugo and Annabella, thank you so much for being such good friends and impacting my life in ways you cannot even imagine. I will treasure every moment together, every gossip, laughter and tears. Please know that I will always root for you and your dreams. Meagan, Fatima, Katrina, Emmanuel, Marco, thank you for being not only coworkers but friends, I wish I would have met you sooner, I truly enjoyed losing our marbles together on production days. Also,



huge thank you to every single one of you guys who went out of their way to give me a ride so I would not walk in the dark. You have no idea how much that means to me. Thank you so much. Erik, Avery,

Angelica, Catching, Eugenio, Jasmin, Nico, Eli, Joel, Jose, Gianluca, SalmaPaola, I know you will continue to do an amazing job and make The Prospector something students look up to.

Tracy, I hope you are reading this issue. I am also so grateful for having met you, you left an impact and helped me so much to grow as a writer and professional, I will always be thankful for that.

Shout out to our former Editor-in-Chief, Julian Herrera, who hired me for my "vibes" almost two years ago, I would not be here if he did not see my potential, thank you.

Vero, I will never stop thanking you for literally everything. Not only did you give me a job, but you gave me the opportunity to meet see **MARIA** on page 3

## A bittersweet goodbye, but an exciting hello

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL  
The Prospector



I have been putting off writing this because it is hard to say goodbye to a place that gave you so many amazing memories and friends, but part of the journey is the end. Throughout my college career I have been (almost) everywhere, from San Antonio to Oklahoma, but I am happy to say I was able to find a place to call home.

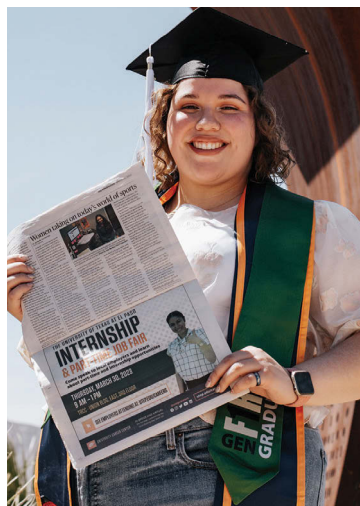
Deciding to come back home to attend UTEP was honestly the best decision I have ever made. I remember trying to find opportunities to jump start my journalism career and when I found The Prospector, I was excited but nervous because I have never written in AP style. The submissions I sent were all from a technical writing class I took in San Antonio, so I have to thank former Editor-in-Chief of The Prospector, Anahy Diaz, for seeing something in me and giving me a chance.

The Prospector was the first place to give me my start in writing and helped me realize writing recaps and profiles for the sports section was something I enjoyed. Tracy if you are reading this (which I hope you are) thank you so much for encouraging me to keep improving

and keep going; I miss you and I hope you are doing well. Now I am the multimedia editor and I never would have thought that I would be making videos and running the podcast. Not only have I had the opportunity to become a better writer, but I have been able to meet some amazing people along the way.

Itzel, it has been an honor working for you. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be an editor and for trusting me to run the podcast, I appreciate you. Also thank you for the all the fangirl moments over Taylor Swift and Harry Styles. Fatima and Annabella, you two are the sweetest people I have ever met. Thank you both for encouraging me to stay strong through the tough times; we need to go shopping together, I need your style expertise. Maria and Meagan, my book besties, thank you for the endless memories and talking books with me. It has been an honor doing the book talk segment with you all.

Jacob, Marco, Erik, Nico, Eli, Avery, SalmaPaola, Joel, Angelica, Catching, Eugenio, Jasmin (my fellow graduate) and Gianluca some of you I have known for a semester or two and some of you I have just met this year, you all are literally the best, I will miss you all so much. I



am so glad to have met every single one of you, thank you for your friendship and for always being there for me.

Vero, Isa, Amy and Crystal (my Formula 1 bestie) thank you for believing in all of us at The Prospector, the office would not be the same without you all. Thank you for all the endless support you have given not only me but the rest of The Prospector staff. I now have amazing people I have the honor of calling mentors. I will miss you all, thank you for everything.

Emmanuel and Alyson there is so much I want to say. You both have been one of the greatest support systems out there, I wish I would

have met you all sooner, but better late than never. You have been there for me through thick and thin and I know I can always count on you both. You both have helped me put myself out there by pushing me to my greatest abilities. Thank you both so much for believing in me when I did not believe in myself. Thank you both for pushing me out of my comfort zone, but most of all thank you for being my best friends, I could not have asked for anyone better. The revolution, it has been fun and thank you for welcoming me with open arms, I know you all will go on to do remarkable things.

To my wonderful family, thank you for the endless support and always cheering me on. Mom and dad this is for you, I hope and plan to continue to make you the proudest parents on earth. I do not know where I would be without you.

Thank you for supporting me every time I wanted to transfer to another college and thank you for helping me achieve my dreams; everything that I am is because of the both of you.

To my brother, thank you for introducing me to football and teaching me about the game; I will forever cherish the moments when we sat in mom and dad's room to

watch football. Sister, we did it. I am so glad that we are graduating together; I would not have wanted to go through this journey with anyone else but you. You have been my rock through it all and I am so glad that God blessed me with an amazing sister like you. I am so proud of you, and I know you will continue to do tremendous things in life. Baylor has one amazing student and athletic trainer on the way.

To anyone reading this, college is stressful, but it is full of beautiful memories, cherish every single moment. As one of my favorite Formula 1 drivers, Daniel Ricciardo says, "Enjoy the butterflies, enjoy the nerves, the pressure. There's a lot of worldly people in this place who you can laugh with, learn from, enjoy some moments with. So, embrace the good ones. Stay focused."

To the class of 2023, congratulations. Let us keep working towards our goals and never give up.

Lastly to UTEP, thank you for the memories and opportunities. I am grateful for it all, it has truly been a wonderful journey and now I am ready for the next chapter.

**Goodbye UTEP...Hello Arizona.**

Katrina Villarreal is the multimedia editor and may not be reached at kvillarreal1@miners.utep.edu

## THE PROSPECTOR VOL. 108, No. 16 May 2, 2023

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**MARIA** from page 2  
 amazing people. You continue to be a great mentor and someone I can rely on and trust. I will miss our long talks about life and I hope you miss them too; I also hope I do not disappoint you with any future love decision making.

Isa, my only daughter friend, thank you for all the conversations that we had, and for allowing me to find someone I can see myself in. I will always cherish the laughs that we shared and the tears I shed at your office table. You are one of the best people I have ever met, and I will always remember you. Thank you for being such an amazing supporter and coffee companion.

Amy, thank you so much for dealing with us, I know we can be quite a handful, but we appreciate everything you do for us. From standing in the cold handing out paper, to gossiping with us. Thank you for always greeting me with a smile whenever I come into the office, may the world always smile back at you.

Crystal, I know we had only a few months to know each other but I would like to thank you for taking the lead role we needed when we felt lost. I know the publication will continue to grow with you guiding us. Thank you for comforting me at my lowest and for all the help you have provided outside of work. I truly appreciate you.

I would like to thank my parents for their patience with me, I know I was not easy to deal with these past four almost five years, yet you were always my number one supporters.

Mamá y papá, espero lo que hago los llene de orgullo y que algún día pueda pagarles todo lo que han hecho por mí. Nunca podré terminar de agradecerles por todo el amor que me dan y por brindarme la oportunidad de trabajar por mis sueños, espero y algún día logremos todo lo que nos propusimos juntos. Todo lo que soy es gracias a ustedes.

Now, finalizing this before publication for May 2, I cannot believe I am a few days away from walking the stage and receiving my degree. It is still a very surreal feeling that I wish I was more prepared for. The uncertainty of the future is scary, but I can at least rest assured my time at UTEP was something I enjoyed and loved.

I believe joining student media was the best decision I have ever made, and it was one that made UTEP better. I will be forever grateful to the people I met and for the opportunities provided by the department. I would also like to congratulate everyone graduating this semester; I am proud of all of you and wish you the best in life.

I strongly encourage everyone to read the paper and the magazine, you guys have no idea how much love and dedication goes into the creation of each issue.

I am sure by reading student-led publications you will see the borderland and UTEP community differently and fall in love with it just like I did.

Maria L. Guerrero Duran was the web and copy editor and may not be reached at mlguerrero@miners.utep.edu, nor @bymariaguerrero on Instagram.

# A new journey awaits me

BY JASMIN CAMPOYA  
 The Prospector



My time at UTEP has been a rollercoaster of a journey. I remember coming in during COVID and feeling lost and unsure of what I wanted to do. But I knew it would all fit together if I was doing what I was passionate about.

I remember applying for a position for The Prospector and Minero Magazine. Doing this opened so many opportunities for me and truly enlightened my skills as a photographer and a writer. I also remember joining the UTEP marching band and flute choir. Band will forever be a large part of my life and I am so grateful for the doors that have opened for me because of music.

Cut to three years later and I could not be happier of how much I have grown as a person, musician, business owner, student and photographer.

This all would not have been possible without the support of my friends and family, but I especially cannot thank my dad enough. He has always pushed me to be the best version of what I can be and has never hesitated to help me despite the craziness I may ask from him. He is truly my biggest inspiration creatively and I am so grateful he has never given up on me or my dreams. I also cannot thank Joseph



Salgado enough. Thank you for always having my back and truly supporting my passions. You have never doubted me and have always been there despite what path I choose next.

I also could not be more thankful to work with such amazing and passionate people. The entire Prospector and Minero staff have helped me become who I am today and I am so glad to have always been able to work with such great staff and supervisors. So much so, that this led to my promotion as photo editor for the magazine and it has been an incredible journey since. Vero, Crystal, Isa, and Amy thank you for creating such an amazing environment I call my second home and pushing us all to be the best versions of ourselves.

I am also incredibly grateful for

the entire flute and piccolo section for helping me create unforgettable college memories. And to Mrs. Barbara Lambrecht for always believing in me as a musician and always pushing me despite the obstacles I faced throughout my year at UTEP.

To all the professors who have taught me throughout college, thank you for guiding me and furthering my knowledge in so many subjects. I have learned so much and have become a better creative student because of you.

It is crazy to think that I am graduating at only 20 years old and I would not have it any other way. Just in three years I have learned so much and have become a whole new person. I am overwhelmed by the support and experiences I have gained and could not feel more prepared to take on this new step in life. But being a senior, all you ever hear is, "Well, what do you plan on doing after graduation?" Despite my preparation, I have never been so unsure of what my answer is, but I know no matter what, I am going to figure it out and I have learned that sometimes it is okay to not know. The future has a mind of its own and I know that with my experiences throughout my college years I am ready for this new journey no matter the obstacles.





Jasmin Campoya is a staff photographer and cannot be reached at jncampoya@miners.utep.edu

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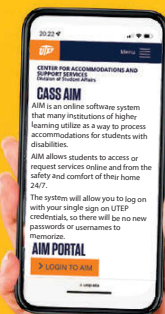
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# First-generation student, soon to be graduate

BY ELISHA NUÑEZ  
The Prospector



“Nervous, excited and ready” are some words Myra Villarreal used to describe her upcoming graduation from UTEP. After beginning her college journey in the fall of 2020, Villarreal did not always think of UTEP as a first choice. What followed was a cycle of uncertainty while pursuing her dreams. Today, she is now graduating not only as a woman in STEM, but a first-generation graduate.

Despite having struggled in school for most of her life, Villarreal started looking toward the future. It was there she started to think of the possibilities a college education could offer. Following her high school graduation, she decided to start a new journey where she could determine how far she could go.

“I struggled in school basically my whole life, starting from like third grade on. When I was in high school I was in this program called AVID, so we had to take AP courses and I struggled so much,” Villarreal said. “After I graduated high school, I was like, ‘Why stop here?’ I worked so hard to get here, might as well just push myself and see how far I can go.”

Villarreal first began her college education at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). Wanting to leave El Paso after her high school graduation, she decided to “dive head first” into an out-of-town experience.



Myra Villarreal plans to continue her education at Baylor University in their master of athletic training program. **Photo by Gianluca Cuevas/The Prospector**

“I really didn’t know what I wanted to do first. I kind of wanted to do personal training because I liked working with people,” Villarreal said. “I started doing more research and (decided that) didn’t want to deal with the business aspect of it, so I tried looking for physical therapy (PT) or occupational therapy (OT).”

So, I had to lean more towards PT, but I really wasn’t doing anything at UTSA to help me get my foot in the door. I guess the pandemic really kind of pushed me (back) because when (I was) in San Antonio, I didn’t feel like I

was at home. I just kind of felt like an outsider. So I had to come back home. It just felt right, and I’m so happy, I’ve done so much in El Paso over the years.”

Upon returning back home, Villarreal decided to study kinesiology at UTEP, with a concentration in human fitness performance. Being interested in working with people for years, Villarreal decided to pursue a career that would require working with others. Apart from her status as a people person, she also enjoys learning about the human body, as it amazes her “how we can do certain things.”

After studying at UTEP, she was able to get an internship that would help her work up close with injured athletes in the rehabilitation process.

“It was there (that) I usually treat athletes and do rehab with them. If they came in with an injury like a post-operation, we could do rehab on them, and then we’d do treatments before practice,” Villarreal said.

Completing her education at UTEP and gaining experience through her internship, Villarreal feels ready to move on, especially as a first-gen graduate.

“It’s an honor. I just feel like it’s a really big deal because I feel like I’m not only doing this for myself, but I’m also doing it for my family because they work so hard to help me stay in school,” Villarreal said. “I’m doing something right, like I’m doing something with my life and I’m making them proud.”

Despite graduating this semester, Villarreal’s educational goals are not over yet, as she was accepted into the Masters of Athletic Training Program of Baylor University.

Moving out in June, she has begun to prepare for continuing her journey and following her dream of working for professional athletes.

Along her undergraduate journey, Villarreal has been supported by her parents and sister, who is graduating alongside her as a first-gen undergraduate this semester.

While this time proves to pack a busy schedule for her, Villarreal stays hopeful for her future.

“I’m just so proud, proud and shocked. I was able not only able to prove to myself that this is my full potential, but I was able to do it on my own, I mean, with the help of my sister. I’ve been with my family for years, so I think (living away) is gonna take time, obviously, just because I’m so close to my family,” Villarreal said. “I feel like I’m mentally and emotionally ready to be on my own and to kind of take care of myself.”

Elisha Nuñez is a staff reporter and can be reached at [egnuñez2@miners.utep.edu](mailto:egnuñez2@miners.utep.edu)

## The stress of paying loans after graduating college

BY AVERY ESCAMILLA  
The Prospector



Walking across the stage with your diploma in hand and family congratulating you is a highlight in life for so many, yet it does not take away the debt many of these students need to pay back after graduating. During their time in college, many students of UTEP do not receive enough grants or any money from financial aid, leading to them taking out loans. With the stress of finding a job after graduation and being able to pay back this debt creates a heavy weight on UTEP students.

UTEP’s financial aid office assists incoming underclassmen and upperclassmen with their financial aid. Graduating seniors are required to fill out the Federal Exit Counseling, create a personal budget, and choose a repayment plan. Through this, students are meant to follow through with this process.

“For 2022-2023, 34 percent of all undergraduates enrolled in either fall or spring and who applied for financial aid,” UTEP Financial Aid said.

This rate may seem low to many; however, this is low because of how many students choose not to fill out the financial aid applica-

tion because they do not receive financial assistance. The money piles on every time a student takes out a loan.

Freshman Alex Valles who is majoring in nursing, is one of the many underclassmen who take out loans to pay towards their own higher education.

“Hopefully by the time I graduate, I’ll have a job within the major I’m currently studying in order to pay back the loans that I had to take out this semester as well as last,” Valles said. “I am kind of iffy though, if I’ll be able to pay it back, because it’s just a lot of money, and I know I don’t have to pay it yet, but it’s still a constant stressor that’s on my mind quite often.”

Students are expected to pay back their loans within 10 years but are given a six-month grace period to figure out how to receive or find the funds they need to pay back like looking for a job. If students do not meet these deadlines, they must call the loan servicer to protect their credit score.

“I know later on in the future I’m going to have a lot more expenses that I’m going to need to pay, and school being one of them is insanely stressful even now,” Valles said.

The recent graduates are not only

bombarded with the pressure of finding a job but also having to scavenge for money to pay back the loans that burden them.

Though the span of time provided, it gives students leeway, as the thousands of dollars taken out takes time to save up.

However, the span of time may not be enough for these students to pay back due to other priorities they have to tend to.

Depending on if the student finds a job and can save up that money, provide for their housing, food, and other human responsibilities, loans are just another burden added to these students.

Graduating is a main focus for UTEP seniors. They should be able to enjoy their time trying to find a career in their proper field and situate their life rather than stressing over their large amounts of debt or risks of not being able to meet those payments.

For more information contact the UTEP financial aid office at [studentfinancialaid@utep.edu](mailto:studentfinancialaid@utep.edu) or at (915) 747-5204.

Avery Escamilla-Wendell is the staff reporter and may be reached at [amescamilla@miners.utep.edu](mailto:amescamilla@miners.utep.edu) or on Instagram @by\_avery\_escamilla.

## Don Haskins event honors late basketball legend Willie Cager Jr.

BY H. CATCHING MARGINOT  
The Prospector



On March 19, UTEP’s basketball legend William (Willie) Cager Jr. died at the age of 81. March 19 was also the 57th anniversary of the 1966 NCAA men’s college basketball championship. Nicknamed “Scoops” for his swiftness in handling the ball on the court, Cager was born in The Bronx, New York, Aug. 24, 1942. Cager played basketball at the college level at what was then named Texas Western College (TWC).

Cager played in 77 games for TWC, before its name change to UTEP, from 1964 to 1968, where he averaged 5.3 rebounds and 8.5 points. Where in an infamous game between Texas-Western and Kentucky, where TWC became the first team with an all-Black starting line-up to win the NCAA Championship. Damaine Radcliff portrayed Cager in the 2006 film “Glory Road” based on that same championship.

On Friday April 14, UTEP hosted a celebratory event at the Don Haskins Center, open and free to the El Paso community. The event

honored Cager not only as the amazing basketball player that he was, but also as the amazing person, father, son, teammate, and friend that he was to so many people in his life. The event included his family, previous teammates, friends and admirers alike. Many shared heartfelt stories and lessons Cager had displayed in his storied life. Among the attendees was Kareem Cager, one of Cager’s sons.

“Our father, he was our superhero, you know he had been through a lot of adversity since he was born,” Kareem said. “And the things that we witnessed and watched him overcome through the years were a blessing to our family and just what he did toward the community.”

Kareem spoke on how important it was for his father to be positive and supportive to others, on and off the court. Cager always carried a smile wherever he went, even toward the end of his life and where he was physically, it was important for him to show the value of strength to his community. Kareem spoke about the way his father approached a room, being able to engage so gracefully with others.

“Him having five sisters, that see **CAGER** on page 7



# Food scarcity: UTEP's latest obstacle

BY VICTORIA CASTILLO  
The Prospector

Student council members presented to the administrative guest a call to action regarding food security and housing, April 21. Which sparked a discussion of what more can be done to assist students toward their academic success.

During this conversation food scarcity was the main topic of what can prevent a student from growing while working towards a higher education. Although food is a basic human necessity, some students have been faced with the harsh reality of seeing it as a luxury item.

46 percent of students stated they ate less despite feeling like they should not, and 38.2 percent of students skipped meals because of the lack of money for food in 2022, according to the Hunt Institute survey.

Lisette Gonzalez, a member of student council and attendee of the UTEP Food and Housing Security presentation, conducted a series of interviews with students regarding their budget for food weekly. Most students had a budget ranging from \$25-\$35 a week.

One student Gonzalez had interviewed disclosed "Because my class is early; I will get a coffee at the food bank and skip straight to dinner. If I can make a big enough dinner, I do not have to eat breakfast."



The UTEP Food Pantry was established in 2014 and provides food security to staff and undergraduate/graduate students who are enrolled in the fall and spring semesters. **Photo by Joel Molina /The Prospector**

ner, I do not have to eat breakfast."

Although the numbers are high for those who must see food as a luxury rather than a necessity many students are unaware of the assistant programs UTEP has on campus. One program would be the Food Pantry, which is a reliable source for UTEP students to collect food or snacks for free.

If there is a food pantry dedicated to feeding students who need assistance, why are the numbers so

high? This could be because many students are unaware UTEP has a food pantry, the location is also not convenient and the stigmas regarding asking for help prevent them from doing so. Some students may feel shame or that they are taking from someone who is in more need than themselves. Such as Samantha Medina, a current junior at UTEP, who has not visited the food pantry due to this reason.

"I just wouldn't want to take away

from those who need it and benefit from it," Medina said.

Another way students could be more aware of the food pantry is through word-of-mouth marketing.

"I heard about the food pantry in my communication leadership class. One of our projects was researching non-profit organizations in El Paso, my professor suggested UTEP's food pantry," said Savannah Dixon, a UTEP senior. "I have been here four years, and I just found out

about the pantry last semester."

The word is being shared about the programs UTEP has for students in need, it is just a matter of getting the information further out to those who need it.

Initiatives like changing the food pantries name to a more welcoming one or moving locations such as going to the union or outside the Undergraduate Learning Center (UGLC) building were brought up as well.

"I saw a box with snacks, mugs, and other things by cotton memorial that was labeled grab what you need! I felt more welcome to take what I needed; I feel like for the food pantry if it were labeled something like that I would likely stop by also if it were closer to campus" said Pablo Andre Bojorjes, a UTEP senior.

With the wave of graduating students and incoming freshmen incentives to make the food pantry more accessible, are being discussed. If you or you know someone who has found themselves in need of food check out the food pantry. The food pantry is located at UTEP Memorial Gym Room 105, 101 West Robinson Ave. Donations to the pantry are also welcomed. Students can also find affordable meal plans with Pick 'N' Shovel located at the Don Haskins.

Victoria Castillo is a contributor and may be reached at vdcastillo2@miners.utep.edu

**THE UTEP STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM (SSSP)**

*Congratulates our 2023 Graduating Class*

**Jasmine Giselle Crain**  
**Karina Patricia De La Paz**  
**Edgar Del Rivero**  
**Yaretsy Nahomy Hernandez**  
**Armando A. Ramirez**

**Denisse Ramirez**  
**Alec Tellez Berkowitz**  
**Abraham Hernandez**  
**Ana Sofia Bravo**  
**Lydia Granados**

**UTEP** **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM**





# Story of a man and his bestfriends

Upcoming UTEP graduate Daniel Shiprack and his service dogs, Buddha and Daisy Mae, come together and pose for a photo. **Photo by Joel Molina/The Prospector**

BY ITZEL GIRON  
The Prospector



The saying “a man’s best friend” has been interpreted in many ways but possibly most noted by its meaning of a dog’s loyalty to their owner. For upcoming UTEP graduate Daniel ‘Dan’ Shiprack, the saying is more than just a loyal dog but rather two dogs who changed his life for the better.

Buddha and Daisy Mae are Shiprack’s service dogs, which are not only certified for PTSD but also detect seizures and diabetic concerns. Both with their own unique capabilities, Buddha helps keep Shiprack safe from PTSD triggers while Daisy is geared toward his resocialization into society.

“I was in the Army for 26 and a half years; 11 combat tours and my last tour was from here at Fort Bliss (and) got back in 2014,” Shiprack

said. “I was diagnosed with severe PTSD, depression, anxiety, suicidal ideologies (and) I was medically retired. Just before I left, my wife and my sister-in-law got Buddha for me.”

Buddha was the first to come home at only nine weeks old and as a surprise to Shiprack created an unknown connection and a lifelong bond. Through that unbreakable bond, Buddha has been at Shiprack’s side during every class as he works to receive his Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling this spring. However because of Buddha’s perfect attendance, he will also be walking the stage to receive his honorary degree.

According to the UTEP website, the Master of Rehabilitation Counseling is a program which “prepares students with the specialized knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to collaborate in a profes-

sional relationship with people who have chronic illnesses.” To Shiprack receiving this degree is more than just assisting those who need help but rather a way to show others how you can overcome struggles and succeed in life.

“I have been in their shoes; being discriminated against,” Shiprack said. “It’s a social stereotype, ‘oh you have a disability’ and they don’t want to talk to you. Society in general doesn’t want to talk about disabilities.”

Although Daisy won’t be graduating with a degree quite yet, she and Buddha have helped not just Dan but many at Shiprack’s internship in the Las Cruces School District, where they help students from the ages of 18-21 who have physical or mental disabilities come into their own personality or other clients from other locations with other disabilities.

All three of them play a vital role in helping these clients emerge from their shell just like Shiprack needed at one point.

“(Daisy) works really well with the kids, she has got five or six of the kids out of their shells,” Shiprack said. “She actually helped one of our full-spectrum autism clients and helped calm him down.”

While Daisy works with the younger clients, Buddha is always ready to put the older ‘kids’ in their place according to Shiprack.

“We have two young adult clients that we’re working with right now that are in wheelchairs. I see when they’re in public working; how other people perceive them, they ignore them because they’re in a wheelchair,” Shiprack said. “There is one student who loves to work with the dogs, even though he is in a wheelchair and we have to be very careful, the dogs understand.

Buddha meets him every morning at the bus, when the bus pulls into the parking lot.”

Aside from their story alone, it is seen how the trio have helped so many come out of their shell either as a client or as a fellow student on around campus.

All three have bigger goals than their own, making them so welcoming and easy to talk to. Luckily for everyone on campus, both Buddha and Daisy Mae are only a few service dogs who people are allowed to interact with as they are also certified therapy dogs.

“Daisy and Buddha are both certified therapy dogs, so when I have my mental health clients with me, they come with me,” Shiprack said. “I tailor sessions to the client. I get to know them and I decide which dog to bring to the next session with me.”

In all, walking across the stage is something that is no easy feat for anyone, for Shiprack it’s something that at times seemed impossible or no longer attainable but thanks to his father and big support system, he now gets to walk the stage later this month.

“Believe in yourself even when it gets tough,” Shiprack said. “It was scary for me in the beginning, mentally I was burnt out a few times with bad grades and bad days (which) made me want to quit but my professors or advisors would tell me ‘No, it’s just a bad day.’

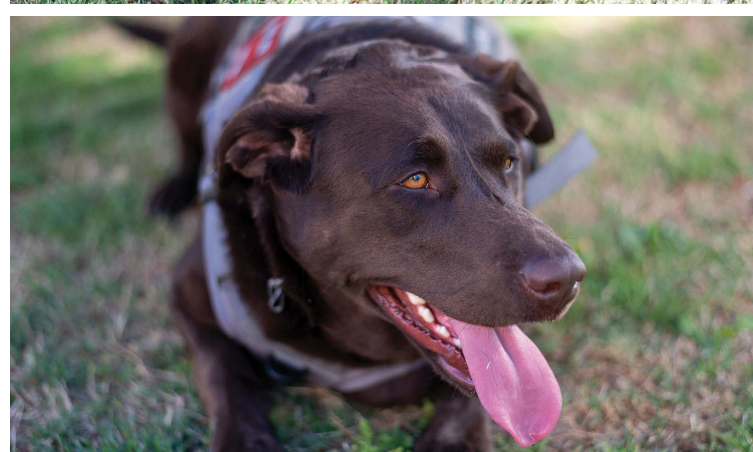
Luckily for Shiprack, while along his journey, he has had either Buddha, Daisy Mae or both to help him overcome the difficulties of being burnt out or having a bad day.

“(Buddha and Daisy) will let me know I’m having a bad day,” Shiprack said. “I stop, take a breath and look around and I imagine myself tomorrow, a better person.”

Just like many it is not always about the destination but rather the journey and for Shiprack the journey has had much to offer and much to learn.

“(This journey) is more for me and my dad but deep down I know it’s not just for me and my dad,” Shiprack said. “If I can help someone every day to be better or be here tomorrow, then I have done my job.”

Itzel Giron is the editor-in-chief and may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu); [@by.itzel.giron](https://www.instagram.com/by.itzel.giron) on Instagram; [@itzel\\_anahi\\_16](https://twitter.com/itzel_anahi_16) on Twitter.



LEFT: Daniel Shiprack and his service dog, Buddha, have attended UTEP together for the past five years and will be graduating later this month.

TOP RIGHT: Buddha, the first of Shiprack’s service dogs and who keeps him safe from PTSD triggers. He will be walking the stage along with Shiprack as an honorary graduate.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Daisy Mae, second of Shiprack’s service dogs and is responsible for his resocialization into society.

Photos by Joel Molina/  
The Prospector



CAGER from page 4



UTEP hosted a public memorial for Willie Cager at the Don Haskins Center on April 14. **Photo by Jasmin Campoya/The Prospector**

was his attitude and his mannerisms,” Kareem said. “It wasn’t about bringing anyone down, and I think because of that smile he brought to everybody, people gravitated towards him and wanted to be around him, his presence alone meant the world to everybody.”

Tyler C. Ragin is a 2020 UTEP Alumni who studied corporate communication with a minor in Creative Writing and was a UTEP track runner. She speaks of Cager’s influence on student athletes like herself. Ragin speaks in the film “Glory Road” and the realization to many who come to El Paso that these events happened, and it is important to think more broadly about how that person’s life was affected.

“Willie Cager to me was a trendsetter who literally paved the way for many people like me black student athletes, to come to UTEP and two, play in college sports at all,” Ragin said. “It’s alarming to

me to think how his life must have evolved over the years, but he was always so supportive of UTEP athletes, every single game, meet, match that he could go to, you’d see Willie rolling in.”

Ragin speaks on how even as a track runner, Cager recognized her in a Wal-Mart parking lot saying, “Hey I know you, you’re that little fast track girl!” Showing up to UTEP sports events was extremely important to Cager as not only a former player, but fellow miner.

“The phrase ‘once a miner; always a miner’ holds true for Mr. Willie Cager,” Ragin said. “I really hope the city of El Paso can learn to be just as supportive in the same way as he was.”

This event hosted by UTEP showed how far kindness and support can go to a community, just like how Cager was to his community.

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# A possible frozen oasis



El Paso County Coliseum, opened in 1942, was advised by Veronica Escobar to be taken down to expand the port of entry. **Photo by SalmaPaola Baca/The Prospector**

BY EUGENIO CANTU  
The Prospector



Although the prospect of an ice rink in the middle of a desert city might seem a little strange, the El Paso Hockey Association is one of the city’s biggest sports. They are composed of our home team, the El Paso Rhinos, which compete in NAHL (North American Hockey League) championships, and two ice skating clubs. In total, it handles around 500 members ranging from 2-year-olds to 18-year-olds.

It is not just local membership either, the Rhinos compete in

statewide games, in fact half of their season games are away and interstate, ranging from Colorado, to Georgia, Oklahoma, New Mexico and much more.

All of this is possible due to the state-of-the-art ice rink, located next to El Paso Coliseum, which has been the home of the Rhinos since 2006. However, the Hockey Association has been in El Paso for over 20 years, starting in 2001 with the Buzzards team. Since the Buzzards dissolution, the Rhinos took their place, and moved into the ice rink

Unfortunately, news has struck

the team, as the ever-growing expansion of the United States-Mexican border port of entry can cause potential demolition of the ice rink and Coliseum.

“We will not be collateral damage,” said Tyler Deloach, vice president of the El Paso Rhinos. “I’m not against the expansion, but we can’t lose everything we have built.”

Deloach has been with the Rhinos since 2013. Graduating from Georgetown, she immediately started as an office worker for the team, working her way to vice president. However, hockey has

see **FROZEN** on page 8

## DREAM BIG AND THEN... DREAM BIGGER!



### The Office of Student Fellowships and Awards

supports UTEP students who are applying for nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships to fund graduate school and overseas experiential learning (research, teaching assistantships, etc.).

#### What is an external fellowship?

Nationally competitive funding opportunities that are:

- Based on academic merit as opposed to financial need
- Open to students from a variety of majors
- Eligibility, application materials, and deadlines vary depending on the award
- Involve a substantial amount of time commitment and careful planning

#### What do these awards provide?

Depends on the award, includes but is not limited to:

- Funding for overseas experiential learning: research, intensive language study, teaching assistantships, etc., both during undergrad and beyond
- Funding for graduate school either domestically or abroad

#### Why should I apply?

The application process is a form of professional development in and of itself:

- Become a more confident writer
- Sharpen interviewing skills
- Think critically about future goals

#### Is my first or second year too early to start thinking about these opportunities?

Absolutely not! Most applications are due junior or senior year, but joining our Undergraduate Fellows Program as a first-year student or sophomore will help you prepare.



Stay connected! Log in to view upcoming information sessions.



**FROZEN** from page 7

been a lifelong passion. “My mother was a cheerleader coach for the Buzzards, and I was a bench bug since I can remember,” Deloach said.

The city plans for the port of entry have proposed three solutions: they take the surrounding areas of the Bridge of the Americas (BOTA), avoiding demolition but preventing any expansion for them. Or two additional massive size expansions that end in the rink and Coliseum’s demolition.

“We have just finished renovation in 2020, estimated in around a million dollars,” Deloach said. “At this time, no compensations have been discussed, but if it comes to it, the Rhinos will live on, one way or another.”

Regardless of the city’s intentions, any form of upgrade to current infrastructure will inevitably affect all existing residents. However, in this case the demolition of the rink and Coliseum could spell disaster for the El Paso Hockey Association.

According to FreightWaves, “More than 650,000 cargo trucks crossed the border using the Ysleta-Zaragoza International Bridge in 2022, while 161,439 trucks used the Bridge of the Americas.”

This number also causes numerous blocks for civilian cars and long waiting hours for residents of both countries. Whatever the city decides, it will have a fundamental impact in the city’s future.

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# Moms and Majors: A safe space for student parents on campus

BY AVERY ESCAMILLA  
The Prospecter



Juggling a full-time job, university, and parenting can take a large toll on many UTEP students.

Though the daycares and babysitters do help, many parents may need to bring their kids to class as there may not be another option.

Yaretsy Hernandez, a senior majoring in rehabilitation science is the founder of the organization. She is a full-time parent with a son turning two years old and manages to also work, go to school, and run a student organization. Her trials and tribulations made her more determined as a student and a parent.

“My pregnancy was really tough,” Hernandez said. “It was kind of spontaneous and by preference I wanted to keep the baby, but I also knew that I was also too young, and I also didn’t want to stop coming to school.”

Even through this, Hernandez stayed determined to stay in school and push through to earn her degree. Moms and Majors is an organization focusing on the importance of UTEP students who are parents. The group started back in 2022 when the founder

Hernandez had the idea of running her organization. The idea of empowering other student parents by being one herself.

Hernandez then met Krystal Valdez, and both collaborated to create a new environment for parents to feel less alone.

“I didn’t know where to fit in any of the other student organizations because all these other student organizations have really strict policies, and I have some responsibilities that no other student has or they might have, but I couldn’t really assimilate to them,” Hernandez said.

This organization brings in parents from diverse communities to share their experiences of raising a child while in school. The group members can share advice and give a hand to one another when the struggles of life come into play.

“We like to focus on becoming a safe space for parents, dads, moms, and family caretakers to join us in this journey called life,” Hernandez said.

The organization has partnered up with many organizations from UTEP such as Por Mi Familia to share the resources they offer.

“I know most of our members, they don’t have childcare services



Yaretsy Hernandez is a senior majoring in rehabilitation science and is the founder of Moms and Majors, a new organization that focuses on the importance of UTEP students and parents. **Photo courtesy of Yaretsy Hernandez**

or family even here on campus to help them with their kids,” Hernandez said. “They bring them to school because I see that they want to continue with their major.”

Members are allowed to bring their kids to the meetings so that they can bond with one another just as the parents get to learn from one another. The experience and opportunities they share allow them to understand the struggles of parenthood while also being able to lean on one another.

During the semester, the organization hosted a baby and me

photoshoot for the parents that are involved in the group.

“Incorporating our children to come on campus and see that, this could also be their home,” Hernandez said. “They can look up to us and also for them to further their education as well.”

Moms and Majors is open to any parent at UTEP who has a 2.5-grade point average and attend one of the two meetings monthly.

For more information visit [@momsmajors](https://www.instagram.com/momsmajors) on Instagram.

Avery Escamilla-Wendell is the staff reporter and may be reached at [amescamilla@miners.utep.edu](mailto:amescamilla@miners.utep.edu) or on Instagram [@by\\_avery\\_escamilla](https://www.instagram.com/by_avery_escamilla).

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

## 2023 SPRING COMMENCEMENT

Don Haskins Center

**Saturday, May 13, 2023**

1 p.m.  
College of Health Sciences  
and College of Nursing

6 p.m.  
Woody L. Hunt College of Business,  
College of Science, and  
School of Pharmacy



**Sunday, May 14, 2023**

1 p.m.  
College of Liberal Arts

6 p.m.  
College of Education and  
College of Engineering



For more information, visit: [utep.edu/commencement/](https://utep.edu/commencement/)



# UTEP'S NEWEST TOP 10 SENIORS



BY ANGELICA GUTIERREZ  
The Prospector



Graduation symbolizes the end of a journey and the accomplishment of a goal. Routines were often established. Students tried their best to get a degree, but some went the extra mile. That's the case for the 2023 Top 10 Seniors, students who demonstrated dedication to volunteering, perseverance, and commitment to advancement.

"I feel extremely happy to have made a positive impact in my community," said Ashley Delgado. "Serve as a leader for younger generations coming from underrepresented backgrounds to always persevere and dream big to overcome any challenges and obtain a perspective of seeing challenges as opportunities."

For most of them, getting this award is a recognition for their hard work and dedication. Not only that, but an affirmation of being a proud Miner and their capability to achieve their set goals.

"It really means a lot to me," said Christian Campos. "It's a great reflection of my journey here at UTEP."

"Being a Top Ten Senior is a huge honor," said Ian Valdez. "I have enjoyed meeting the other students and the mutual respect we have for one another has been rewarding."

The application process was simple for some of them since they had applied for different awards in the past. However, others found it challenging and overwhelming. That was the case for Sarah Mickelson, Truman scholarship recipient.

"The process was somewhat stressful because I was also finishing up my Truman application at the same time," said Mickelson. "I almost did not submit because I was not sure if I was going to get my letters of recommendation on time. But, it allowed me to reflect on my time here at UTEP and on all of the great things I've been able to do here."

Mickelson is the university's first Truman scholar since 2006. This award opened many doors for her success. It gave her internship and mentorship opportunities, along with funding for future studies like law school. UTEP offered her support and advice during the long process.

"I approached a lot of people for help," said Mickelson. "Jen Green at

the OFSA helped me a lot, as well as my mentors from the Political Science Department and the El Paso Public Defender's office. My friends and family were very supportive as well."

As all these amazing students have shown, UTEP is a friendly and backing community. The university helped them find the right way to carry out their goals and dreams.

"UTEP to me represents opportunity," said Iberty Trevino. "I never imagined that I would be able to study in DC or Austin, but UTEP made that a reality."

"UTEP has offered me all the resources to be and compete at the same level as other students from more renowned universities such as Stanford, Harvard," said Carlos Castañon. "I have participated in opportunities where I have competed and worked alongside those kinds of students, and I truly see the value of this university."

From when they first started college until now, all of them have reached achievements they thought were impossible. From creating a big impact in UTEP and El Paso community, to representing the university around the world.

"I recently returned from my

Archer Center fellowship in Washington, D.C.," said Valdez. "I never even knew that these opportunities were available for students when I was a freshman. I had the honor to intern at the office of Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), the first and only Latina elected to the Senate."

These students got the chance to experience incredible opportunities like internships and different awards. Mickelson sees these experiences as not only personal and professional growth, but as an incentive to help and serve the community in the future.

The Top 10 Seniors have big plans after graduation. Some will do internships, find a job or get their master's degree.

"I plan on working at a congressional office," said Valdez. "Either here or in Washington, D. C. for a few years before attending law school."

"I plan in finishing my master's here at UTEP," said Mickelson. "Then applying for a Fulbright or Marshall scholarship. I also have the chance to do a year in D.C. at an internship of my choice."

"I'm going to be attending Baylor College of Medicine this summer,"

said Campos. "I'll be studying at their position assistant program."

Filled with gratefulness and joy, many of them want to give back to UTEP. They want to repay to their community in any way possible so future students will have even more opportunities and encourage future generations.

"My biggest goal is to give back to UTEP a lot of what has given me and more," said Castañon. "I really have a passion of helping Hispanics in STEM, so I want to stablish many opportunities you see in other universities."

"My biggest goal in life is to use my education as a power/tool to impact the borderland community," said Delgado. "Continue encouraging and mentoring younger generations of students to believe in their potential to pursue a higher education."

These Miners are prepared for what the future will bring to the table. They are the example of what UTEP does for students both academically and professionally, and even personally. The future looks bright for this next generation.

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## Professor returns to UTEP to impact students

BY ERIK ACOSTA  
The Prospector



Entering as a nervous freshman in 2010, a professor whose roots and identity are tied to a university that has stood by his side all these years, Professor Jose D. Maldonado, a UTEP graduate, owes his success to the university.

Graduating in 2015 with a communication studies degree, Maldonado stayed at UTEP to pursue his master's degree in 2017 and considers those years influential.

"It was more than I expected that it would be, I loved my under-

graduate experience that's why I am still here," Maldonado said. "I miss it sometimes because I had great professors, I had a lot of professors in the communications department as well that were super impactful and now, they're my colleagues."

Working across his boss's office, Richard Pineda, Ph.D., someone he once called professor, now comes full circle as Maldonado considers Pineda as someone who helped guide and mentor him through his education and someone he admires.

"I put him through so much during my two years in my master's program because I was just not

getting it and he stood by me, so he definitely mentored me and till this day, he has still been there, and I appreciate a lot on what he has done for this department," Maldonado said.

Maldonado, a full-time professor has spent five years teaching communication classes, he never felt ready to leave UTEP after getting his bachelor's as he considers UTEP to be home and part of his identity.

"I felt it was too soon, like I wasn't ready and another thing that Dr. Pineda said that resonated with me, is that coming to school for

another two years buys you time, to decide what you want to do in case you're not ready after your bachelors," Maldonado said. "I loved the environment here, the community, is just a big part of my life and identity, and I know people have different experiences, they can't wait to leave but wasn't the case for me, I had much more to learn."

Though Maldonado loves to teach and enjoys engaging with his students and building personal connections, being a professor was not something that Maldonado wanted to do or was on his mind growing up.

"What I wanted to do was be on the radio, I had this voice since eighth grade, and I remembered that I loved music and listening to the radio, and I was like you know what I can definitely do this as a career," Maldonado said. "I worked at KTEP and Kiss-FM for about six years and I thought that is what I wanted to do with my life but as I got older experiences changes, especially when I went to grad school."

Being a teaching assistant for Pineda during his first year of graduate school opened many doors for Maldonado to get a

see **PROFESSOR** on page 10



**PROFESSOR** from page 9

feel for teaching. This experience helped Maldonado teach his own courses during his second year of graduate school.

Passionate about teaching, Maldonado's endeavors at UTEP did not end as soon, as he landed a job in 2017 as an adjunct professor teaching public speaking. Stepping

into classrooms where he once sat and interacting with colleagues who were once former professors was quite an adjustment for Maldonado.

"When I was first here it was weird because I was like 'I am here, what do I do? Am I doing this correctly, are they judging me because I was just a student and do I deserve

to be here, do they think I'm not qualified enough to be here,'" Maldonado said.

"After my third year I was more cemented like yeah, I do belong here and I'm glad that I am here, and I continue to work to make sure that I bring value to this department."

Inspired by his students, Maldonado started his Ph.D. education

program at UTEP. Despite being raised by a single mom and growing up in a household surrounded by women, he will always be grateful for what UTEP has given back to him as it has changed his life.

"I'm very proud to be from UTEP, we are very prestigious at least when it comes to research, and UTEP has produced a lot of

graduates, but it has changed my life and that's why I make it a part of my identity because I wasn't the best kid growing up," Maldonado said. "When I got to UTEP it really changed me because this was the life that I want and if it wasn't for UTEP I don't know what I'll be doing so I'm really grateful."

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COMIC BY MAYA ALVARADO

[MALVARADO29@MINERS.UTEP.EDU](mailto:MALVARADO29@MINERS.UTEP.EDU)

**IP** Congrats class of **2023**  
FROM THE PROSPECTOR



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# THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

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# 2023

### SPRING 2023

#### Graduate

##### College of Engineering

##### Doctor of Philosophy

Benjamin Arras  
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Jin A. Collins  
Lucas Jonathan Galey  
Marcus Paul Gutierrez  
Arash Karimi Pour  
Cory Marquez  
Jean Emmanuel Montes Ramirez  
Erasmo Morales  
Anindita Nath  
Sayed Mohsin Reza  
Edgar Daniel Rodriguez Velasquez  
Wai Yan Elsa Tai Ramirez  
Jose Armando Terrazas  
Ismael Villanueva Miranda

##### Master of Engineering in Civil and Environmental Engineering

Alejandro Santiago Mandujano

##### Master of Science

Janeth Allison  
Ricardo Alvarez  
Karen Hayde Alvarez Gil  
Erick Alvarez Velazquez  
Martin Avila Jr.  
Priscila Balanzar Almazan  
Raghu Vamshi Bandlamudi  
Debapriya Banik  
Daniel Emmanuel Bernal  
Lianna Nayumi Bourdony  
Omar Favez Bourselan  
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path may lead,  
go instead  
where there is  
no path and  
leave a trail."**

**-Ralph Waldo Emerson**

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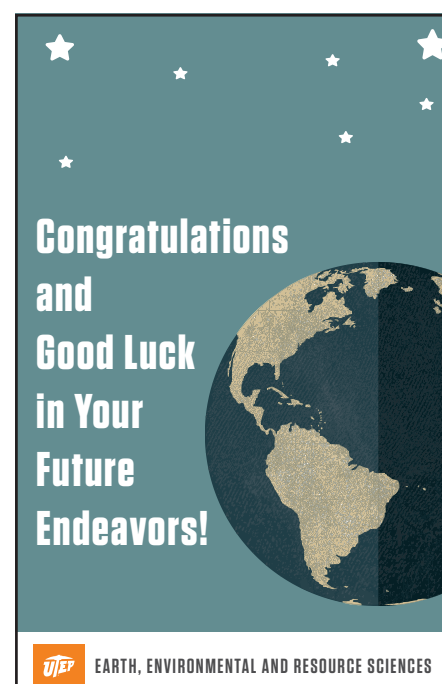
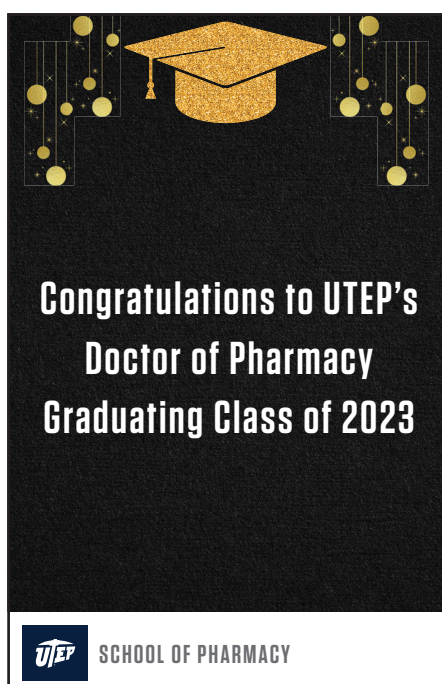
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Yoshio Komiyama  
Ramses Leon  
Raul A. Leon  
Nallely Leyva  
Sabine Lipe  
David Lopez-Molinar  
Xavier Alejandro Lujan  
Jesus Guadalupe Mendoza  
Alejandra Montes  
Nicole Mueller  
Victoria Obregon  
Victor Manuel Ortega Contreras  
Rocio G Ramirez Sanchez  
Eleazar C. Rangel  
Angel Ulises Rodriguez  
Antonio Hiyel Rojero  
Felix Anthony Ruedas  
Gaston Salgado Armendariz  
Emily Jean Solem  
Gary A. Theard  
Isabel Vargas

### Computer Science

Ali Basim Abed Jr  
Kevin Manuel Acosta  
Anna Victoria Aguilar  
Joel Adrian Aguirre  
Madison R. Anderson  
Mark-Anthony J. Avila  
David Antonio Ayala  
Jonathan Adam Ayala  
Rafael Baez Ramirez III  
David Joseph Baptiste Jr  
Jesus Baylon Jr  
Miguel Angel Camarillo Elizondo  
Lizeth Campos  
Carlos Fernando Castaneda III  
Michael Castaneda  
Julissa Bibiana Chacon  
Lorelyne Chavez  
Miguel Angel Contreras  
Christian J. Cordova  
Karla Sofia Cuellar  
Luis David Davila  
Emiliano R. De La Cruz  
Edgar Del Rivero  
Hugo A. Dominguez  
David Eduardo Dominguez  
Garcia  
Jeffrey Escamilla  
Leonel A. Escapita





# THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

Oswaldo Escobedo Jr  
Airam Flores  
Alan Gamez  
David Jesus Gamez Limon  
Diana Areisy Garcia  
Hernan Isaac Garcia Guaderrama I  
Maximiliano Liam Godfrey  
Zaul Gomez  
Timothy J. Gonzales  
Ariath S. Gonzalez  
Thomas Jacob Guinto  
Jacob Hampton  
Jesus Alberto Hernandez Jr  
Matthew David Herrera  
Sofia Elizabeth Holguin  
Emiliano Islas Quinones  
Luis Raul Jimenez  
Garrett William Jones  
Victor Adrian Juarez  
Thinley Jurmi  
Harmony Genesis Lara  
Scott R. Ledford  
Diana Licon  
Justin Lim  
Gregorio H. Loi  
Irvin Lopez-Audetat  
Jesus Macias  
David E. Mares  
Elizabeth Danae Martin  
Valeria Martin Del Campo  
Jaime Josue Martinez  
Ulysses Martinez Jr  
Jose Eduardo Mata Nevarez  
Connor Basel Mlouhi  
Hiram Morales  
Kevin Joab Moreno  
Giovanna Munoz  
Deyanira Ochoa-Mercado  
Kenneth E. Okwunwanne Jr  
Roberto Ulises Orozco  
Sergio Ortiz Jr  
Ximena Parada  
Omar Fernando Perez  
Susana Perez Juarez  
Miriam Teresa Ramirez  
Rubi Renteria  
Hector Rodrigo Richart Ruiz  
Yahir Fernando Rivas  
Alexis Rodriguez  
John Duane Rodriguez  
Natasha Rovelli  
David Anthony Sanchez Jr  
Diego Gerardo Sanchez  
Irvin Abraham Sanchez  
Roberto Sanchez Jr Jr  
Micheal John Sansone  
Kevin Edgar Sias  
Seth Edgar Sias  
Gregorio Adrian Sigala  
Eric S. Smith  
Alec Tellez Berkowitz  
Edwin Tomy George  
Edwin Horacio Trejo  
Jose Reynaldo Vega Jr  
Alan Verdin  
Elton U. Villa  
Roxanne Felipa White  
Ryan James Winkelman  
Leonardo Zapata Contreras

## Construction Engineering and Management

Ciria B. Palacios  
Michael Anthony Salinas  
Luis J. Villarreal

## Electrical Engineering

Hector Abraham Acevedo Reyes  
Mohammed E S Th Althuaini  
Carlos Fabian Benitez  
Damian Blancarte  
Christian Cabrera  
Alfredo Chaidez  
Sasha Cobos  
Ivan Samuel Contreras  
Noel Cruz  
Mariana De La Cruz  
Hugo De La Garza Jr  
Anakaren Estrada  
Evelyn Fernandez  
Daniel Flores  
Rudy Flores Jr  
Alexis Garcia  
Jorge Emilio Garcia  
Jesus Manuel Guillen Jr  
Johnathan Harlee Hernandez  
Michelle Lara  
Karla Samantha Medina  
Jovany Mendez  
Taffitha Bessirose Miller  
Rene Daniel Molina  
Armando Yassir Montoya  
Christopher Munoz  
Johvani Nava  
Alan Jesus Neal  
Dalia Orozco  
Irvin Abraham Ortiz  
Cielo Roxann Pantoja  
David Perez Gonzalez  
Herman Foston Ramey III  
Christian Oscar Ramirez  
Kevin C. Sanchez  
Jorge Orlando Sierra  
Martin Tejada

## Engineering Innovation and Leadership

Lya Bejarano  
Andrea Jordan Bettie  
Eric Alejandro Criollo Moyeda  
Jesse Antonio Espinoza  
Anneliese Mari Fensch  
Andrea Paola Valle

## Industrial and Systems Engineering

Madeline Skye Acosta Gomez  
Jordan Benjamin Barclay  
Eric Barragan  
Sarah Flores  
Zimri Julian Ibarra  
Andrea B. Loya  
Raul K. Montes  
Javier Ramirez Elizalde  
Mireya Rocha  
Luis A. Salinas  
Ximena Vazquez Montano

## Mechanical Engineering

Lynn Alberto Acosta  
Luis Alejandro Arellano Jr  
Edna Valeria Armas  
Anette Nayeli Baca  
Hector Becerril  
Brianna Danielle Betancourt  
Isabel Clara Brooks  
Carlos Alberto Castanon  
Joel Alejandro Cepeda  
David Humberto Chavez  
Alberto Clift Jr  
Isaac Corral  
Jesus Eduardo Cruz

Jonathan Carmine Cucciniello  
Maximiliano Marcos De La Rosa  
Antonio Delgadillo  
Alexis M. Dominguez  
Omar Antonio Dominguez  
Jose Esteban Estrada  
Jesus Alejandro Fabian Martinez  
Diana Fontes  
Julio Cesar Garcia Jr  
Victoria Angelica Garcia  
Brian Aaron Garibay Jr Jr.  
Naila Noheli Gomez  
Analy Gonzalez  
Damian Ivan Gonzalez  
Edward Christian Gonzalez  
Rodrigo Esteban Grajeda Martinez  
Yahriel Isaac Guel  
Alejandro Javier Hernandez  
Jaime Alan Herrera  
Simon Alonso Hinojosa Vega  
Benjamin Jacob Krieger  
Abel Leyva  
Perla Alondra Leyva  
Leslie Fernanda Llamas  
Penelope Lopez  
Eric Loya  
Amauri Marin  
Asahel Alberto Marinelarena Diaz  
Angel L. Marquez  
Adrian Martinez  
Perla Michelle Martinez Ricartti  
Rubi Mae Matamoros  
Alejandro Arath Mena Jr  
Jakob I. Mendoza  
Colin Douglas Meyer  
Yahir Alexis Meza  
Oscar Alejandro Montes  
Cesar Eduardo Moriel  
Adam Julian Munoz  
Joseph Matthew Munoz  
Horacio Ornelas III  
Gerardo Pena Jr  
Julian Aleja Pena  
Ethan I. Ramos  
Alan Alexis Rascon  
Esteban Isaac Rios  
Melanie Rivera  
Roberto Robles  
Sergio Ivan Romero Garcia  
Julian Ronquillo III  
Sergio Enrique Salcido Armendariz  
Edith Maria Shear  
Javier Jair Sosa  
George Tucker  
Diego Vasallo  
Emmanuel Vielma Lopez

## Metallurgical and Materials Engineering

Dariana Barrios-Salas  
Erwin Cazares  
Daniela A. Duarte  
Michael Ryan Medina  
Alan Nunez  
Salma Paulina Ramirez  
Jose Francisco Salazar  
Arturo Villegas Jr  
Hector A. Zamarripa

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

### Bachelor of Science Clinical Laboratory Science

Valeria Aguirre  
Alexa Rae Alawneh  
Patricia Castro  
Neelam Chhetri  
Yanira Cordero-Mendoza  
Brenda Yvonne Depue  
Denise Dominguez  
Leslie Viane Fierro  
Chason Marcus Fralick  
Christian E. Hernandez Jr  
Irene Aleja Hernandez  
Lydia Esther Hernandez  
Jessica Anne Jones  
Danielle Kutz  
Aylin Itsel Lara  
Ebony Sophia Lewis  
Kelsie Elizabeth Marquez  
Jesse Monarrez  
Janet Arlene Moncayo  
Daniela Estefania Morales Sanchez  
Alicia Jasmi Najar  
Omar Daniel Negrete  
Celeste A. Ramirez  
Eduardo Romero  
Suzeth Sanchez  
Claudia Ivette Santiago  
Karina Pamela Sierra

### Health Promotion

Sophia M. Castillo  
Zenia Monique Gomez-Papa  
Dulce Nydia Rodriguez

### Kinesiology

Ariana Mariel Abascal  
Adrian Brandon Aguilar  
Matthew Alarcon  
Alejandro I. Almanza  
Javier Sebastian Alvidrez  
Raymond Anthony Amparan  
Jesus R. Avila  
Megan E. Beard  
Samantha Borrego  
Kaitlyn Nichole Bradham  
Amber Michelle Butler  
Kelsi B. Byrd  
Zaylie Therese Calderon  
Michelle Castaneda  
Adrianna Gabriella Cintron  
Jacob T. Cobos  
Karla Ivette Corral Gasca  
Tomas O. Escudero III  
Marcela H. Fernandez  
Melanie G. Gandara  
Andres Garcia  
Stefanie L. Garcia  
Vashti Celestial Garcia  
Miroslava Gomez Hurtado  
Adelina Adrianna Gonzales  
Sergio Gabriel Gonzalez Jr  
Toni Alyssa Gonzalez  
Andrea Sofia Hernandez  
Raquel Clarisse Houston  
Thomas Jacob Jimenez  
Jose Daniel Junco  
Claudia Lizeth Lopez  
Julian Robert Lopez  
Karen L. Lozoya  
Aylene Macias  
Daniel Enrique Marquez

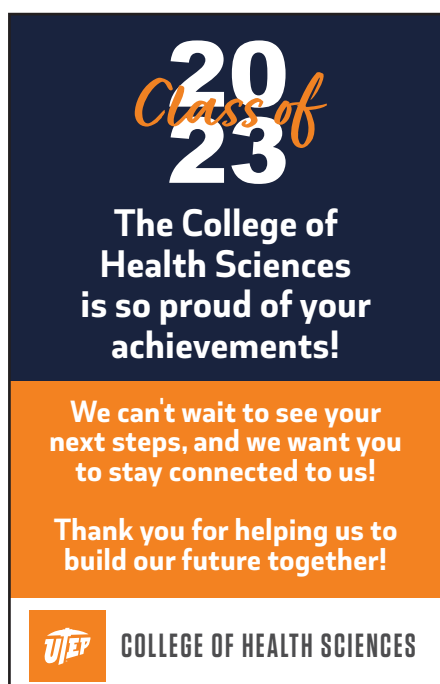
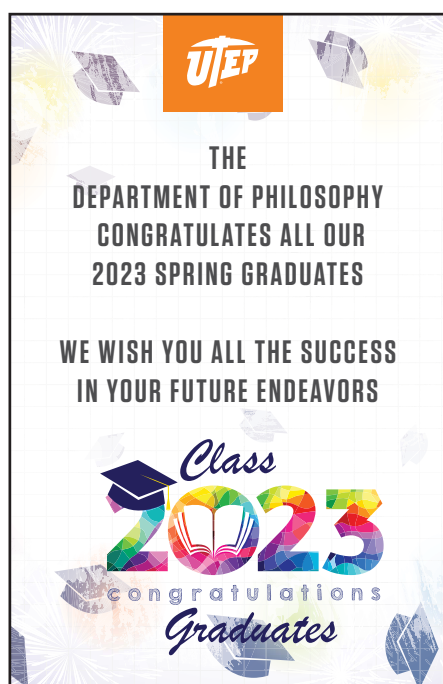
Andrew Martinez  
David Martinez Jr  
Daisy Ruby Martinez Hernandez  
Adriana Aracely Morales  
Marcos Munoz  
Marco Antonio Orrantia-Muela  
Jordan R. Puchi  
Josecarlo Ramirez Rivera  
Natalia Iris Roberts  
Mariana Romero  
Mauro Manuel Salazar  
Sasha Solis  
Pablo Antonio Suarez Fortes  
Lana Leigh Kamper Trautman  
Cassidy Brooke Urrabazo  
Anilu Vega  
Myra Villarreal  
Elisa Renee Young  
Joshua Yuen

### Public Health

Valery Iris Baca  
Karina Patricia De La Paz  
Gloria E. Duenas  
German Hidrogo Jr  
Ana-Jamileh Kassfy  
Brittney Marie Lira  
Yvonne Andrea Mata  
Samantha Lizette Murillo Chacon  
Denisse Ramirez  
Desiree Rangel  
Alyna Andrea Sanchez  
Hope Kasandra Servian  
Liza Marie Brianna Velarde  
Alejandro David Velez

### Rehabilitation Sciences

Khron R. Baker  
Ingrid Bustamante  
Marissa Danie Calderon  
Patricia Camila Carballo  
Jacqueline Alexandra Chavez  
Edward S. Coronel  
Daniella Q. Cortinas  
Karen Nohemi Cortinas  
Valeria Noemi Crockton  
Karina Patricia De La Paz  
Trinity Elisabeth Dorantes  
Wesley Antonio Dunn Jr  
Diane Omo Garcia-Rivas  
Alan Gardea  
Geanna Gomez  
Lydia Cristina Granados  
Michael Lexlee Greene  
Isiah Hernandez  
Natalia Astrid Jara  
Paulina Llamas  
Miranda Danielle Lucero  
Roxanne Lynn Martin  
Zachary Ray Melendez  
Joaquin Alejandro Morales  
Cassandra A. Munoz  
Allison Marie Palus  
Juan Angel Perez  
Michael Aaron Perez  
Paulina Perez Lopez  
Andrea Polanco  
Michelle Stephanie Portillo  
Mia Sifuentes  
Roberto Sealt Sosa  
Halle A. Taylor  
Valeria V. Valencia  
Jorge Alejandro Valenzuela Fierro  
Leslie J. Valle  
Andrea Vasquez  
Dante Velasco





# Class of 2023

Nancy Catalina Velasco  
Liliana Adelina Villa  
Gisela Yescas

## Bachelor of Social Work

Karen Abigail Aguilar  
Karina Anomar Aguirre Torres  
Clarissa Akle  
Hubaldo Alonso  
Angela Anaya  
Kayla Breanne Apodaca  
Joanna Arias  
Edith Arreola  
Rachel Rios Bailon  
Zofia Banuelos  
Joanna Amairani Barnes  
Sarah Nicole Carbajal  
Serena Brianna Cardona-Gonzales  
Kaycee Kenley Carmignani  
Vanessa Carrillo  
Berenice Castillo  
Rosa Joana Ceballos Rodriguez  
Karla Contreras  
Jacqueline Cortez  
Isabella Loren Duran  
Valerie E. Flores  
Alexandria J. Garcia  
Bailie Sue Gokey  
Valeria Gutierrez  
Cathryn M. Hernandez  
Alondra Estela Hernandez Hernandez  
Brianna Herrera  
Sandra Ivett Hidalgo  
Miguel Angel Lazalde  
Jacqueline Lechuga  
Valery Giselle Lopez  
Rosemary C. Mares  
Gabriela Esmeralda Meza  
Gabriela Danielle Miranda  
Viviana Mitre  
Dennis Ray Moore Jr  
Vanessa V. Morales  
Marissa Alyse Moreno  
Jasmin Ojeda  
Kimberly Olvera-Girard  
Victor Manuel Ortega  
Tiffaney Eloisa Paiz  
Paulina Pillado  
Vianey Rikki Portillo  
Leeroy Rico  
Itzayana Rodelo  
Tayde Yolanda Rodriguez  
Teresa M. Serna  
Elizabeth Solis Montoya  
Alexis Stephens  
Margaret Joen Torres  
Ashley Michelle Urbina  
Penelope Abigail Vega  
Sarah Nicole Velez  
Genevieve Lee Villa

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

### Bachelor of Arts Anthropology

James Richard Cole II  
Deyzia Mariah Dominguez  
Daniela Ramos  
Delara Elizabeth Sipe  
Cassandra Vargas

### Art

Sara Elizabeth Borja Guardian  
Ayensi Chong Torres

Austin Carlos Esparza  
Cesar Alejandro Garcia  
Marissa Renee Guerra  
Lucas James Mackay  
Miranda Merced Morales  
Gabriel Rico  
Franshesca Tatiana Rivera Reyes  
Victoria-anne Chianti Rosales  
Christopher Peter Swan

### Art History

Vanessa Pauline Ciocco  
Katia Juliet Rodriguez

### Communication Studies

Martha Elena Alaniz  
Ivan David Bernal  
Hannah L. Butler  
Javier Alejandro De La Hoz  
Aaron Ryan Hernandez  
Aileen Morales  
Samantha Ann Reyes  
Emilio Rios Jr

### Creative Writing

Itzel Natalie Acosta  
Lesley Anne Cabral  
Candice Marlene Gibbs  
Jonathan Joel Guerra  
Mariane Gutierrez  
Christian Daniel Hernandez  
Vianca Lycia Hernandez  
Katrina S. Jones  
Jesus Humberto Sanchez  
Michael Andrew Thompson

### Creative Writing/Digital Media Production

Gibel Andrea Amador

### Creative Writing/English & American Literature

Johanna J. Van Der Aa

### Criminal Justice

Christian Acevedo  
Nestor Isai Aguilera  
Brianda J. Alonso  
Nancy Alvarado  
Alex Anaya Jr  
Oscar Ricardo Armendariz Jr  
Jonathan David Avila Rodriguez  
Jose Daniel Ayala  
Christian Joseph Barnes  
Alonzo Barraza Jr  
Rashad I. Beecham  
Ana C. Benitez  
Julian Sebastian Bernal  
Vanessa Camacho  
Evelyn Camarillo  
Elizabeth Victoria Campos  
Jessica Campos  
Miguel Alejandro Carreon Jr  
Emma Carrillo  
Andrew Castro  
Osvaldo Cervantes  
Blanca D. Chairez  
Luis Daniel Corona-De La Canal  
Aphiniti B. Crupper  
Tay Cunningham  
Vanessa De Leon  
Jessica De Loera  
Ashley Nichole Delgado  
Samantha Delgado  
Antonio Devora  
Michelle Erving

Vanessa Escareno  
Thalia K. Ferrera  
Isai Abraham Fierro  
Sabrina Kathleen Flanagan

Enrique Julia Flores  
Jorge Enriq Flores  
Lorenzo David Flores  
Natalie Gallegos  
Rodolfo Gamez Jr  
Emmy Aide Garcia  
Michael Anthony Garcia  
Jazmin A. Gonzalez  
Rebecca Yamileth Gonzalez  
Maricruz Gonzolas  
Jennifer Granados  
Diana S. Guerra  
Teresa E. Guerrero  
Luis Alejandro Gutierrez  
Carshaylah Jerronique Harrison  
Ailev Guadalupe Hernandez  
Karen Y. Hinojosa  
Wagner Ioanis  
Jose Enrique Jacquez Jr  
Evelyn Itzel Jara  
Ryan Jimenez  
Dennis Earl Johnson Jr  
Karina Patricia Juarez  
Melissa Katherine Lesondak  
David Leyva  
Jasmin Lopez  
Angela Alvina Loya  
Brianda A. Luna  
Collin Andrew Lyle  
Michelle Martinez  
Oscar Montes Jr  
Marlena Rose Mora  
Rosa M. Morado  
Bailey Ann Moreland  
Genevieve Alexis Morgan  
Bryana Monique Murillo  
Osman A. Ochoa Torres  
Phillip C. Olan  
Gabriel A. Olave  
Eric Ismael Orrantia  
Citlali Ortega  
Samantha Rae Ortiz  
Raymondo Perez  
Sarai Perez  
Lynn Annette Picard  
Jonathan Richard Placencia  
Myrka Antoinette Plata-Hernandez  
Destinee Ann Prado  
Alexandrea N. Ramirez  
Daniela I. Ramirez  
Mariana Ramirez  
Ana Belen Reyes  
Kevin Ivan Rodriguez  
Michael Razi Rodriguez  
Mariela Salcedo Vega  
Andrea Sanchez  
Maria I. Sanchez  
Natalia Nallely Sanchez Rodarte  
Justin Roy James Sanders  
Jeanette Sierra  
Ruby Sifuentes  
Anthony R. Solis  
Frida Maria Teran Dozal  
Jessica Torres  
Natalia Trevizo  
Alejandro Urbina Jr  
Ivan Alejandro Valles  
Joseph R. Vargas Jr  
Brandon J. Welch  
Cynthia Lou White  
Ian Stefan White  
Matthew Zarazua

### Dance

Annelise De Lara  
Kenia Alejandra Rodriguez

### Digital Media Production

Ramon Alqueza Jr.  
Alexis L. Avila  
Catrina Renee Ayala  
Christina Garnette Ann Bowling  
Jose Ramon Camarillo III  
Jasmin Nicole Campoya  
Mary Elizabeth Chavez  
Tashi Choden  
Jose Antonio Conde  
Parker Reed Cunningham  
Juan Pablo De Anda De Alva  
Christian Jaffe Diaz  
Dario Esteban Diaz  
Yudah I. Diaz  
Isaiah Garcia  
Diego Gutierrez  
Jacquelyn Isabelle Herrera  
Daniela Lopez-Martinez  
Cristian Ornelas  
Armando A. Ramirez Jr  
Alexis Santos Hernandez  
Clyde Robert Tims  
Vanessa Stephanie Vela  
Brianna Zubia

### English

Karena Ann Delgado  
Geremy Andrew Gutierrez  
Cinthia Valeria Martinez

### English & American Literature

Andrea Araceli Arceo  
Ivannya Vianey Belmonte  
Victoria Alicia Bernal  
Ana Karla Berry  
Salem Trini Bidwell  
Erin Nicole Cox  
Anthony Jacob Diaz  
Leslie Ann Flores  
Jessica Gomez  
Cristian Antho Guardiola  
Maria Luisa Guerrero Duran  
Oralee Breanna Leyva  
Alain C. Martinez  
Oscar Ivan Montes Ojeda  
Jorge Alejandro Morales Rodriguez  
Lauren Claire Perales  
Rocio Esperanza Rivera  
Jocelyn J. Ruiz- Rangel

### French

Alexandra Rutiaga

### History

Sylvia D. Altizer  
Ana Isabell Beltran  
Jason Alexander Cabral  
Armand Francisco Chuca  
Luis Alberto De Leon Tovar  
Naomi Duran  
Simon Gonzalez Jr  
Jose Armando Jimenez Jr.  
Brandon Phillip La Pointe  
Jorge Lazo Jr  
Javier Andres Leal  
Spencer Reade Lopez  
Jakob Noah Mendivil  
Estela Morales  
Alana Nevarez  
Shelley Michelle Newell

Alexis Ariana Nunez  
Raquel A. Ramirez  
Sebastian A. Rosas-Mantilla  
Estevan Alonzo Saenz  
Abigail B. Sandoval  
Michael A. Sims  
Mia Iliana Solis  
Jonathan C. Stoddart  
Karla A. Valenzuela Garay  
Joshua Venegas

### Linguistics

Jordan A. Adams  
Celeen Joie Atkins  
Claudette Christine Chapman  
Brianna Monique Duran  
Laura Lisette Gonzalez  
Julienne Ericka Mariscal  
Christopher Joe Quintana  
Karina Ramirez  
Abril Rubio  
Paris Salazar  
Ileanna Ugarte  
Ashley Marlene Vargas  
Kimberly A. Vasquez

### Media Advertising/Communication

Alejandro Aguirre  
Lizett Castruita  
Kenneth Danneman Jr  
Sophie Virginie Delfosse  
Adrian Gabriel Delgado  
Victoria Grace Edgin  
Alexia Elizondo Huerta  
Ivan J. Garcia  
Carina Gonzalez  
Daniel Guerrero Aguilar  
Ryan Lynn Looney  
Miraesia A. Mandes  
Christopher P. Marquez  
Daniela Mendoza  
Erika Loren Reyes  
Natalie Samaniego  
Miguel Angel Valdiviezo  
Alexis Elizabeth Vasquez  
Paolo Velazquez Angeles

### Media Advertising/Communication/Art

Cassandra Dreher

### Media Advertising/Communication/Digital Media Production

Angel Daniel Ortiz

### Multimedia Journalism

Margaret Hope Cataldi  
Brenda Patricia Cedillo  
Elizabeth Cervantes Guzman  
Erika Susana Lopez  
Karen Lozano  
Brandy Vanessa Ruiz  
Ethan Alexander Thomas  
Marcos Valdez  
Katrina Villarreal

### Organizational & Corporate Communication

Cosima Lopez Buettner  
Stephanie Diaz  
Poqui Andre Escalante  
Emily Guadalupe Gomez







You're not stuck -  
you're learning, you're growing  
you're preparing to 'bloom'.  
Bigger things in my future (I hope)  
Thank you for the opportunity and thanks to my happy family throughout the years!  
-Cristina

After years of hard work!  
FINALLY!!!  
-DOM

Gracias a Dios y a mi familia pude lograr mi sueño.  
Lizet R.



Gracias a mi familia por ayudarme a lograr mis sueños.  
-K.O.

This is the beginning of a new era!!!  
-Carolina Caldera 2023!

After 10000 years. Finally we did it!  
-Jesus Anila

This is a long time coming we did it!  
-Alumna

Congrats Grad! Ayushma!

Congrats! We did it!!  
-Alex



Thank you UTEP for making me happy and thank you to SMP for being the best experience I've had.  
-Marilyn Love Maria

It's more than a diploma. It's more than graduation. Its knowledge.  
-Claudia

Thank you to my friends and family for supporting me! Onto the next chapter.  
-Emmie Carrillo 2023!

Congrats Class of 2023! We did it!  
-Daisy

Congrats Pediatric

Congrats

GO UTEP Congrats class of 2023!  
-Daniella Cortinas

We made it class of 2023!  
Congrats! -Andrea D.

Good luck. To class of '23!  
-Daisy

Congratulations Good Luck class 2023!  
-Britney

We did it!  
-Alex M.

Hard work becomes easier when being committed!  
-Jesus Sanchez

Thank you UTEP and my family for the support I did it!  
2023 -Karen Garcia



Thanks everyone for all your support!  
-Nafay

Congratulations Class of '23' -Liz Patricia

Come so far, Got so long to go!  
-Bianca Hernandez

Thank you to my family and Daniel for supporting me. Always!!!  
-Love to my boys, Anetrea

We did it for ourselves, but we are grateful for those helped I went through with us  
-Karen Class of 2023

Alexa Herrera

Undergraduate studies done! So blessed to finish at a young age. Thank you to all my family & friends. Thank you, Abba.  
-anysha

It was a journey, I finally got here!  
-Lilibelle

I freaking did it! Never stop pushing yourself.  
-Ariethy C.

Thanks to my family I did it!  
-My boy's head

I Did it for Her! Love you family / familia

GO MINERS!!  
-Jennifer Lopez Rodriguez



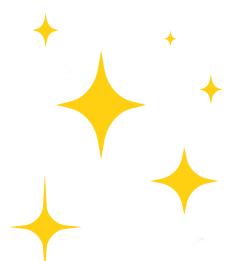
Thank you UTEP for helping me into the person I am! I have gained so much and I am grateful!  
-Kendira Montoya

Class of 2023  
Gracias a mi familia lo logramos!  
-Franse  
GO MINERS!!  
-Pazphone M.

Proud of myself an this huge accomplishment!  
-Imeda  
D. Falcon

-Make friends! you'll need them when you leave!  
-Ethan

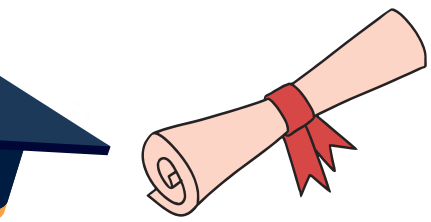
We did it!  
-Robyn Farley



Class



# OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



Enjoy the butterflies,  
enjoy being naive,  
enjoy the nerves!  
Thank you UTEP  
for everything!  
-Katrina V. ♥



So proud to be a UTEP  
miner and the graduating  
class of 2023! -Adriana.  
Congrats! Now comes Hingos  
The hard part! Getting a  
Job! -Llido times

KKY - AEA!

Patrick Caraveo

You will never  
have more energy, or brain  
cells than you have  
today - Axel  
Tovar

Try again.  
Fall again.  
Fail better.  
-Dionne Treviño

Take it moment by  
moment, open yourself  
to opportunities you  
would have never  
considered, and you  
will surely succeed.

Excited for one  
more chapter  
wrap up.  
-Leslie C.

Thank you to  
my parents and  
my siblings for  
encouraging me!

Finally  
After all the  
hard work  
& sacrifice  
comes the  
blessings!  
-Karen Vidauri  
Morales Huerta



NP'S  
Finally!  
But to be  
continued - Stef  
Garcia.

Picks UP! Here's to  
our future  
-Armando Varela

Let's Goooo!!  
-MART ZANNEVAH

I did it!  
Gracias Ma. Luis,  
Papi y Abuelos  
-Valeria B.



Congrats  
everyone!  
We did it!  
-Love PERVA

Thank you UTEP  
for all the experiences,  
opportunities, friendships,  
and the best  
memories of my life!  
-Jasmine Chir  
Pick's UP!



Go Miners!

Natalia Samaniego

Do everything with LOVE!  
-Janeth

Let the  
adventure  
begin 2023  
-Viridiana  
Guevara

Thank you to  
my parents and  
Bambon for making  
my dream come true.  
-Natalie Pena  
Fernanda!

Deandrea  
Thank you to my whole  
family for everything they  
did for me through this  
process. Los quiero mucho!  
-Edgour

Finally we did it!  
-Amber Mullins

It's never too  
late!  
-Paris Salazar

Congrats  
everyone!  
-Mariana Enriquez

Vanessa Orrantia

One step closer!  
-Nayeli

Finally!  
Dreams can  
come true!  
-Fernanda!

It's about  
time!  
-Sara Perez

Change is the  
end result  
of all true learning  
-Leo Buscaglia

Love to everyone  
-L.S.M

Congrats to all!  
We did it, you are  
amazing!  
-Majo Rojas

Camila Guerrero  
Jesus Gonzalez

Here's to following  
our dreams! We did it!  
-Paige 2023

we did it!  
-Ashley Garton

Love to everyone  
-L.S.M

J. Mc Miller  
BSN RN, CERN  
-Jordan D.

Hey mom! I did it!  
-Jordan D.

Congrats to all!  
We did it, you are  
amazing!  
-Majo Rojas

Camila Guerrero  
Jesus Gonzalez

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our dreams! We did it!  
-Paige 2023

we did it!  
-Ashley Garton

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BSN RN, CERN  
-Jordan D.

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-Jordan D.

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Jesus Gonzalez

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we did it!  
-Ashley Garton

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Jesus Gonzalez

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-Paige 2023

we did it!  
-Ashley Garton

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-L.S.M

J. Mc Miller  
BSN RN, CERN  
-Jordan D.

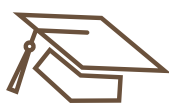
Hey mom! I did it!  
-Jordan D.

Congrats to all!  
We did it, you are  
amazing!  
-Majo Rojas

Camila Guerrero  
Jesus Gonzalez

Congratulations

of 2023





# THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

Alfredo Mendoza Jr  
Jessica Y. Montes  
Annalyssa M. Moya  
Isaiah Jonathan Ortiz  
Elizabeth A. Pinon  
Juan Carlos Rivera  
Montserrat Sahagun  
Jessica Salazar  
Isaiah James Solis  
Karina Alicia Somoza  
Erick Soto

## Philosophy

Ethan Rick Roski  
Kimberly Zubiate

## Philosophy/Creative Writing

Jasmine Giselle Crain

## Political Science

Zareth G. Alcantar  
Hugo Winston Bustamante  
McKayla Margaret Caruthers  
Daniela Karina Cisneros  
Carlos G. Fierro Jr  
Luisa F. Garcia Teran  
Trevon Alexander Griffin  
Isaiah Noel Iturralde  
Alejandro Lara  
Adriana Jasmin Leon  
Amoret Jo Mccartney  
Jacob Alexander Molina  
Samantha Morales  
Angelica A. Quintanilla  
Brittany Rodriguez  
Frida Cristina Romero  
Denise Saenz  
Diana Britn Solano  
Luis N. Subia  
Emilia Tapia Jimenez  
Lydia Natalia Torres Ayala  
Brianna Iberty Trevino  
Ian Levy Valdez  
Ana Karen Varela

## Psychology

Jocelyn Michelle Aguilar  
Pablo Andres Aldrete Fiscal  
Evelyn Almaraz  
Bianca Amparan  
Anamarie Arellano  
Maria Fernanda Avila Melgar  
Paris E. Bardouche  
Leslie Burciaga  
Jose Carlos Campos  
Brianda Alicia Capistrant Jr  
Melissa Chaidez  
Priscilla Chairez  
Carlos Chavez  
Maria Fernanda Contreras  
Kevin Andrew Cruz  
Angeles De La Cruz  
Danielle Alexis Del Hierro  
Michele Marie DeRouen  
Neleh Kristian Diaz  
Ariadna Fernandez  
Angel Garcia  
Evelyn Nayeli Garcia  
Bianca Sophia Gaystardo  
Ashley Danielle Gaytan

Briana I. Gonzalez  
Brittney Joann Grajeda  
Viridiana Guevara  
Myrna Paola Gutierrez Portillo  
Anastasia H'Luz  
Jamie Danielle Herrera  
Erika Y. Highsmith  
Bryce Cameron Hillhouse  
Dennise Inguanzo  
Hugo Sergio Juarez  
Emerson F. Kidd  
Mariel Alejandra Lara Garcia  
Cassandra Lemus  
Sebastian Lopez  
Jennifer Lopez Garcia  
Julie A. Luna  
Alexis Marie Madrid  
Gloria Guadalupe Martinez  
Judith Araceli Martinez  
Yvette Mendez  
Gabriela Mendoza  
Pamela Mendoza  
Raquel Sarai Menjivar Castillo  
Destinee A. Michelletti  
Itzel Elena Moran  
Sebastian Moriel  
Brianna Murillo  
Cristian Muro  
Leslie Paulina Negrete  
Monica Murillo Orona  
Vanessa Amanda Orrantia  
Reymundo Ortiz III  
Jaquelin Perez  
Miranda Irene Perez  
Stephanie Perez  
Paulina Guadalupe Porras  
Alyssa Marie Ramirez  
Evelyn Ramirez  
Sofia Talai'itupu Regalado  
Alejandra Rincon Levario  
Heavyn Hersha Robertson  
Andrea Rodriguez  
Angelica Rodriguez  
Lilian Veronica Rodriguez  
Julia Marie Romero  
Jasmine N. Rubio  
Alyssa M. Ryan  
Ezequiel Adalberto Salazar  
Iyanla A. Saldierna  
Adriana Salinas  
Jacob Daniel Salinas  
Emily R. Sanchez  
Luis Carlos Sanchez  
Skylar Quinn Sandoval  
Aliah B. Saucedo  
Arianna Isabel Solis  
Cynthia I. Sustaita Gonzalez  
Michelle Tavares  
Marissa Guadalupe Tepezano  
Nadina Nicole Torres  
Priscilla Torres  
Ady P. Torres-Lopez  
Daniela Anahi Valdiviezo  
Diana Valenciana  
Priscila S. Vela-Flores  
David Alejandro Villa  
Daesjah Janae Ward  
Cadey D. Werner

## Psychology/Art History

Diva Eunice Campos Rivera

## Psychology/ Criminal Justice

Julie Anne Bejarano

## Psychology/French

Cristobal Amador

## Security Studies

Ramon Gardea Jr  
Carlos Fernando Guerra Jr  
Mark David Hanna Jr  
Martin Ibarra  
Steve Elias Jasso Jr  
Yesenia Rosales  
Theodore Jack Shrader

## Sociology

Irland Yadir Breceda  
Jazmin Ceballos  
Yara Lizeth Delgado  
Angela Michelle Martinez  
Anthony Martinez  
Kathia Ramirez  
Samantha Renee Sanchez  
Dylan Edward Diaz-Infante

## Sociology/Psychology

Andres E. Avilez

## Spanish

Cesar Camunez

## Theatre Arts

Hallie M. Borden  
Kaylee A. Salas  
Christopher Jacob Stritzinger

## Women's and Gender Studies

Sophia Hannah Gomez

## Applied Arts and Sciences

Isabela De la Cruz  
Kaitlyn Elizabeth Stout

## Bachelor of Fine Arts Dance

Paola Daniela Alvarado-Lopez  
Rebeca Angelica Chavez

## Studio Art

Leslie Alejandra Alcala  
Andrea M. Alvarado  
Reyes Gonzalez  
Noelle Renee Marquez  
Serena Lizette Ornelas  
Paige Hope Radun  
Adrienne Ramirez  
Jessica Isabel Rivera  
Jessica LeAnne Smith  
Chelsie Solis  
Marcos Emanuel Soto  
Karina Yapor  
Rigo Alberto Zamarron

## Theatre

Sadie M. Aiken  
Daniel Chavira  
Robyn Elizabeth Farley  
Larry Stephan Ortiz

## Theatre Arts

Carolina Caldera  
Matthew P. Nunez  
Elias Manuel Perales

## Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies

Anais Aguirre Gutierrez  
Jovan Cortez Alacar  
Zaira Idelyn Alvidrez  
Jazmine Ambriz  
Edgar Aragon  
Rain A. Arenas  
Diana Ayub  
Oscar Jose Baldassari-Vera  
Amber Nicole Bohnaker  
Lindsey Michelle Butler  
Eliana Cabral  
Michael Rene Calanche  
Isabella Alex Candelaria  
Thaizet A. Carranza  
Karina Chavez  
Jostein Markel Clarke  
Alyssa Denise Collier  
Eleazar Cordova  
Roberto Covarrubias  
Avery Michelle Crouse  
Devon Dragan Daich  
Carol L. De Avila  
Perla Dorado  
Christopher Edmerson  
Katherine E. Elliott  
Wendy Vivian Espinoza  
Silvestre Silvia Estorga  
Melissa K. Faulkner  
Carlos Adrian Galindo  
Jennifer Emily Gallardo  
Victoria A. Garcia  
Joel Gaytan  
Genesis Marissa Gomez  
Cynthia Gonzalez  
Jesus Ricardo Gonzalez Jr  
Martha Julissa Gonzalez  
Deborah Elaine Guerrero  
Aylin Gurrola  
Ana Karen Hernandez  
Jorge Hernandez  
Luis Manuel Hernandez  
Justin M. Hiatt  
Steven Wayne Hubbard Jr  
Tregon Jacarri Hugue  
Alexis Huitzacua  
Amri J. Jimenez  
Rosanna Yvonne Jimenez  
Danielle N. Johannes  
Christian Nicholas Juarez  
Tyrice Taesean Knight  
Ethan Josef Leyva  
Gisselle Cecilia Lopez  
Kierra A. Lopez-Robinson  
Maureen S. Mancuso  
Joshua Medina  
Ashley Marie Meisenbach  
Veronica Anne Mendoza  
Lilia E. Meraz

Vanessa Merica  
Michelle Monarrez  
Dalila Corine Morales  
Marla M. Morales  
Lizbeth Morales Hernandez  
Cecilia Moreno  
Andres Najera  
James Fitzgerald Neal  
Joshua Robert Nehrling  
Ricky Paul Olivas  
Regina Ornelas  
Jason Orasco Jr  
Mahrianna Nicole Petree  
Carlos A. Prieto  
Diana Eliza Ramirez  
Torey Scott Richardson  
Kevon Lasha Riley  
Krisylla Ruiz  
Serena Jean Sanchez  
Marissa A. Sleek  
Norbert C. St Pierre  
Cheyenne Kaitlyn Stark  
Steven Thomas  
Barbara Ann Toscano  
Deshaun Jermaine Trotter  
Candie Urbina  
Ashley Kristina Semone Valerio  
Julio Cesar Villa  
Michael Vincent Voigt  
Amber Kimberley Weldon  
Malik Jadon Zachery  
Jennifer Zamarripa  
Zaid Oswaldo Zavala

## Bachelor of Music Commercial Music

Giamo Vincenzo Forti  
Aaron Armando Garcia  
Andres Rico Lopez  
Fernando Rivas

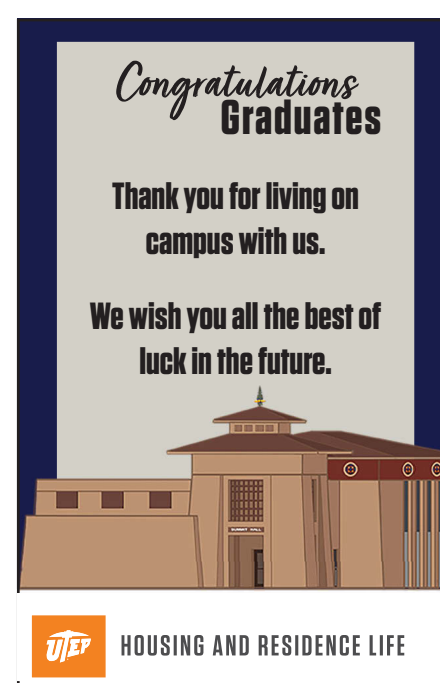
## Music

Kevin I. Aceituno  
Venus Jean Alarcon  
Jesus Ayub  
Julia Crist Barrios  
Patrick Anthony Caraveo  
Melissa Chavira  
Moises Espino  
Aylin Franco  
Gabriel Pedro Gonzalez  
Eduardo Granados  
Fabian Alexa Macias  
Sebastian Nunez  
Homer Misael Pardo  
Christina Ramirez  
Jennie Marina Wagner  
Mitchel Reed Weatherly

## Bachelor of Science Psychology

Thassane Cruz Abraham  
Valeria Estefani Avitia Sosa  
Rebeca Camacho  
Sol Isela Corral  
Oliver Alberto Day  
Dhamar Delgado  
Adriana Janeth Escoto  
Alec Espendez  
Lauren Isabel Estorga  
Brandon Joseph Flaherty

## Class of 2023





# Class of 2023

Ismael Luis Gonzalez Aponte  
Brenda Lizeth Hernandez  
Alyssa Michelle Holguin-Golden  
Genevieve Marie Jessen  
Isabella Nicole Kelly  
Jessika Amelia Magdaleno  
Diana Jocelyn Morales Juarez  
Daphne Danielle Patterson  
Isaac Leonel Rojas  
Zaira Rubi Ruiz  
Angie Salas-Tobias  
Andrea Daniela Sanudo Diaz  
Abigail Tarango  
Isabella S. Valera  
Adam L. Wallace

## COLLEGE OF NURSING

### Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Emma Sofia Abarca  
Sydney Nicole Aguilar  
Elsa Margarita Aguinaga  
Luz Estela Aguirre  
Ana S. Alvarado  
Ngozi Adaku Amadi  
Celeste Andrade  
Jose Angel Apodaca  
Natalia Apodaca  
Griselda Stefanie Arreola  
Alexis M. Arriola  
Brenda Avalos  
Arelis Avitia  
Jacqueline Balbuena  
Melissa M. Barajas  
Chante Kris-Ann Buchanan-Bernard  
Elida Stephanie Cabada  
Jeffrey Douglas Cain  
Katelynn Caldera  
Crystal Calvillo  
Diana Cano  
America Melissa Carrera  
Luis F. Carrillo Jr  
Alejandra Maria Castaneda  
Breanna A. Chavarin  
Abigail A. Chavez  
Valeria Chavez  
Jamila Kondo Coats  
Denise Cobbs  
Sunday C. Cortez  
Lauren Amy Davitt  
Jennifer De Santiago  
Vianey Delgadillo  
Kara Elizabeth Doyle  
Fanta Matta Dyfan Tucker  
Astrid N. Escobedo  
Stephanie Ashley Escriche  
Bianca Mercedes Estrada  
Esijolomi Jean Etiwe  
Catherine Franco  
Vince G. Gamez  
Rylee Lynn Gatewood  
Clayton Alejandro Giron  
Marco D. Gonzalez  
Lourdes Alejandra Grijalva  
Sonia Grijalva  
Sean J. Harris  
Alyssa Marie Hernandez  
Luisa F. Hernandez  
Nicole M. Hernandez  
Yolanda Hernandez  
Tyranicia Holland

Moises Jara  
Paula I. Landeros  
Nicole Lee Lane  
Eve Law  
Kayla Sage Lemus  
Silvia Lerma Acosta  
Liliana A. Lira Magallanes  
Avianna G. Lopez  
Denisse Lopez  
Katie L. Marquez  
Bryanna Aislyn Martinez  
Justin Martinez  
Persephone Eileen Martinez  
Briana C. Mata  
Daniela I. Mata  
Bibi Sahra Mccloud  
Zath Mendoza  
Madea Ayodele Mensah  
Valeria Demi Mirelez  
Bianca Morales  
Maribel Moreno  
Luisa Fernanda Navarro  
Vanessa Nunez  
Xitlali Jailene Olivas  
Savanna Michelle Opiel  
Diego Ordonez  
Amanda Nicole Orozco  
Christopher Alexa Ortega  
Isabella Miranda Ortega  
Brian Phillip Patton  
Mandy A. Pemberton  
Ashley Veronika Perez  
Alyssa Quintela  
Elian Ramirez  
Azalea Arianna Rincon  
Rubi Rodriguez  
Sophia E. Rojas Reyes  
Monica Saenz  
Jacqueline N. Salas  
Maximiliano Sarmiento  
Nayely Serna  
Kareem A. Shaibi  
Aubrey Frances Steward  
Aubre Deon Terry  
Dina Torres  
Jesus Manuel Valdez  
Bianca A. Valles  
Juan Manuel Velasco Jr.  
Ericka M. Villalba  
Carlos M. Villanueva  
Megan Young  
Elise Mckenzie Zengerle

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

### Bachelor of Arts Biological Sciences

Valeria Chacon  
Taylor Ashton Clancy

### Bachelor of Science Biochemistry

Luis Alberto Aguilar-Trejo  
Jorge Antonio Alvidrez  
Anelhy Danet Ceballos  
Monica De La Cruz  
Jordyn Jacquleen-Elize Duplessis  
Jasmine Nicole Frias  
Rodrigo Andres Gonzalez-Badia  
Christopher Offisong  
Idalia Reyes  
Laura Sofia Ronquillo Silva

Yvette Torres

### Biological Sciences

Daniel Acosta  
Matthew Acosta  
Paulina A. Aguirre  
Eduardo Anaya  
Krystal Schnee Aofia  
Daniel I. Archuleta  
Luis F. Arias  
Jonathan C. Armendariz  
Emily Arreola  
Karen Arzola Pereyra  
Aolany Morie Avila  
Paola Barrios  
Sean Benoit  
Andrea Betancourt  
Catherine Bustillos  
Sophia Maria Candelaria  
Tessa Leigh Carlin  
Paola Jacqueline Carrasco  
Ashley Nicol Castaneda  
Sabina Cerrillo  
Ethan C. Chacon  
Connie Chavez  
Marco Antonio Chavez  
Mitsy Chavez  
Esther Jaquelin Contreras  
Abraham Corona  
Michael Cortez  
Elise Ann Cotty  
Amanda E. Creacy  
Denise Cruz  
Enrique Cruz  
Jasmin Cuevas  
Eve Charlotte Mary Daniels  
Yannel Alexandra De Lara  
Juan Carlo Delgado  
Ruben D. Diaz De Leon  
Zarena Marie Dominguez  
Jacob Aaron Duron  
Priscilla V. Eck  
Krystal Paige Escalante  
Vassti Escalante  
Liliana Escobar  
Henry Estrada  
Leobardo Flores III  
Paulina Flores  
Sofia Flores  
Elias Andres Fuentes  
Anaihli Garcia  
Laura Crystal Garcia  
Mariana Garcia  
Lesley Gaytan  
Jesus A. Gonzalez  
Samantha Nohely Gonzalez  
Josdell Maria Guerra Ruiz  
Camila Guerrero  
Dalia Yesenia Hardy  
Brittany Nichole Hernandez  
Bryan Martin Hernandez  
Enrique Hernandez  
Sebastian Hincapie  
Adriana Almicorami Hinojos  
Christian Iturralde  
Jazmin Jasso  
Arlette Jimenez  
Nikita Isabel Jimenez  
Kaitlyn Lorraine Johnson  
Amina Khamsi  
Linnete Legaspy  
Inaya Aris Lemus  
Kimberly M. Loya  
Gamble Patrick Lynch  
Ana Martinez

Irene Kay Martinez  
Rebecca Maynez  
Saray Mendez  
Vivian Mendez  
Angel Nycol Mendoza  
Stephanie Miranda  
Luis Eduardo Montemayor-Noble  
Kendra Teresa Montoya  
Amber Nicole Mullins  
Makala Jade Muniz  
Alfonzo Esteban Munoz  
Alicia Jasmi Najjar  
Sergio Negrete Jr  
Abigail O'Hara  
Shane A. Oleal Rodriguez  
Miguel Marin Ordonez  
Alexis Giovanni Ortega Rodriguez  
Wonderful A. Oyebami  
Monica Pacheco  
Hector Manuel Padilla  
Bianca E. Pena  
Jaqueline Pena-Zacarias  
Samantha Daniela Penaloza  
Liza Camila Perez  
Andrea Ramirez  
Angel Gustavo Ramirez  
Isabelle Marie Recendez  
Neftali F. Reyes  
Jannese Rodriguez  
Olga Maria Rohrer  
Paola Aracely Rojas  
Michel Angelica Rojo  
Lee Ann Rosario Mojica  
Alysa Saenz  
Clareece Monique Salguero  
Jessica P. Sanchez  
Yogyana Santana- Salais  
Alexis Sophia Santos-Hernandez  
Crystal Joanne Schilz  
Mariah Scott  
Jovannah Servian  
Kristilyn Jeweliana Silva  
Yasmine Simental  
Summer Kaylee Luz Sullivan  
Ariana Cristina Torres  
Axel Tovar  
Nathan Bruce Truman  
Veronica Urquiza  
Julissa Arely Valdez  
Lea Raquel Valdivieso  
Armando Varela III  
Emily Vasquez  
Fabiola Vasquez  
Karen G. Vega  
Jessica P. Verduzco  
Ashley N. Viveros  
Tenzin Wangmo

### Cellular & Molecular Biochemistry

David Fernando Gamboa Flores  
Kimberly Lorena Gonzalez  
Diana Evelyn Munoz  
Dilean Johana Murillo Gonzalez  
Vianey Quaney  
Julio Humberto Rangel  
Wendy Vianney Salazar  
Andrew A. Sanchez  
Estefania Santiesteban  
Briana Soto  
Edward Willi Trejo Jr  
Alyah Vasquez

### Chemistry

Sonam Tobgay Dema  
Rosa Rebeca Favela Robledo  
Sonam Lhaki  
Raul S. Ramos  
Miguel E. Renteria  
Salvador Alejandro Valdez Jr

### Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

Rio Pablo Dominguez  
Lina Alexis Erives  
Karina Itzel Garcia Aguirre  
Jacklynn B. Gutierrez  
Abigail Juarez  
Celeste Molina-Mejia  
Caleb Quintana Molinar  
Matthew Edward Montoya  
Sarah Marie Ortiz  
Kaitlyne Marie Pallares  
John J. Powers  
Natalie Marie Rangel  
Ruby Andrea Ryan  
Christian Isaiah Saenz I  
Sheila Ailinee Saucedo  
James Smith  
Stephanie Ann Trevizo  
Karem S. Vidaurri

### Environmental Science

Elisa Sofia Blanco  
Lorian Gabriela Flores  
Patrick Dylan Moran

### Forensic Science

Dana Edith Arriaga  
Fatima Avitia  
Claudia Berenice Gil  
Bridget Yareth Granados  
Clarissa Legarretta  
Natali Legarretta  
Zenon Robert Navarrette III  
Denise I. Renteria  
Robert Reyes  
Arlette Sabrina Ruiz  
Kayla Cine Soto  
Mariza Villa

### Geological Sciences

Oskar Alvarez Jr  
Carmel Giovanna Murillo

### Mathematics

Emmanuel M. Avalos  
Brianna Danielle Betancourt  
Cecilia Carrera  
Jose Luis Concha  
Karla Daniela Delgado  
Paul Richard Dessauer  
Sherab Dolma  
Stephen Thomas Farias  
Aaron D. Frayre  
Brittini Ann Lazo  
Alyssa R. Martinez  
Gabriela Molina  
Alejandro Orozco Loera  
Emi Ortiz  
Derek Isaiah Perez  
Zachary R. Rosalez

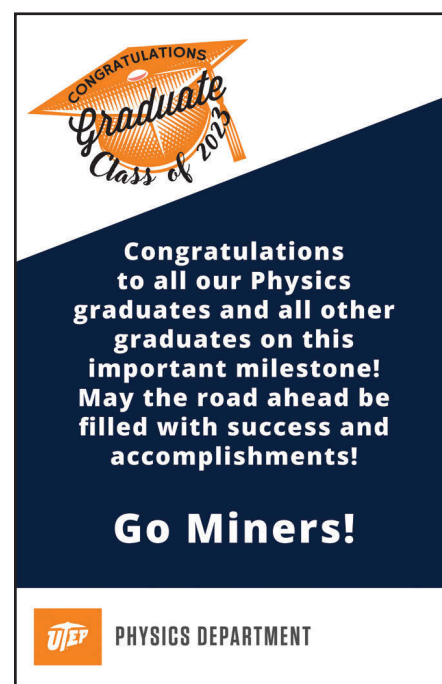
# THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



**UTEP**  
**Congrats**  
**COLLEGE OF**  
**SCIENCE**  
**Graduates**  
**Class of 2023**  
[utep.edu/science](http://utep.edu/science)



**Congratulations on your impressive achievement! We are excited for the great opportunities that are waiting for you and wish you the very best!**  
**Go Miners!**  
**UTEP COLLEGE OF NURSING**



**Congratulations to all our Physics graduates and all other graduates on this important milestone! May the road ahead be filled with success and accomplishments!**  
**Go Miners!**  
**UTEP PHYSICS DEPARTMENT**



**Microbiology**

Homero Balderas  
Daniel David Fernandez  
Andrea Guevara  
Frances Andrea Rangel  
Valeria Virrueta  
Christian Yu

**Neuroscience**

Isabella Monique Castro  
Paulina Judith Chavez  
Peter Anthony Fogel  
Ennis Andrea Galaz  
Cory Nathaniel Heaton  
Adam Hernandez  
Bryan Armando Hernandez  
Granados  
Jonathan D. Lopez  
Madison Trinity Millan  
Andrick Brian Perez  
Jose L. Perez  
Stephanie Renee Phillips  
Iliana Minelli Pinal  
Abigail Ramirez  
Matthew Rene Rodriguez  
Nathalia Berenice Rubio  
Maya Solis  
Dionne Trevino  
Nathalie Abigail Valencia

**Physics**

Diana Paola Carrasco-Rojas  
Hector Sebastian Fierro  
Kusal Khandal  
Alexis Danielle Lupo  
Edith Maria Shear

**Physics/Mathematics**

Adrian De La Rocha Galan

**WOODY L. HUNT  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**

**Bachelor of Arts****Economics**

Aylin Garcia Jr

**Bachelor of Business Administration****Accounting**

Josue Adame  
Tiffany Aguilar  
Stephanie Marie Aguirre  
Sofia Valeria Arciniaga  
Brandon Jacob Arellano  
Pamela Alexi Beltran  
Leslie Alejandra Canales  
Miguel Angel Carranza  
Cristina Alejandra Castro Juarez  
Mario Ivan Maximiliano Cobos Becerril  
Daisy Delgado  
Janel Dominguez  
Mariana Enriquez  
Anthony N. Flores  
Danielle Flores

Mariana Frausto  
Gerardo Andres Galvan  
Nubia Raquel Galvan  
Jacqueline Garcia  
Amanda N. Gomez  
Marcus Anthony Huerta  
Stephanie Huerta  
Maika Sierra Jackson  
Marcus James Lafrance  
Abril Yvonn Lechuga  
Christian J. Lick  
Ana Sofia Licon Moriel  
Carina A. Lopez  
Monica Gabriela Lopez  
Gustavo Luevano III  
Hiram R. Maldonado  
Esmeralda Maltos  
Jaqueline Martinez  
Jesus F. Martinez Jr  
Matthew Mckinley  
Fabiola Medrano  
Matthew D. Monarrez  
Alyssa Briana Montes  
Gilberto Munoz Jr  
Taegyoung Nam  
Gema Nevarez  
Christopher Andrew Ojeda  
Karla Ferna Olmos  
Sofia Natalia Perez  
Brenda Pineda  
Alejandra Prieto Moreno  
Maite Rascon  
Annesophie Raux  
Alfonso Rodriguez  
Raul Andre Romero  
Jasmine B. Romo  
Diego Armando Sanchez  
Gilbert Sanchez II  
Itzel D. Sandoval  
Aaron S. Sepulveda  
Babette Christine Sepulveda  
Samantha I. Servin  
Karen Alessa Solano Hernandez  
Alejandra Sotelo  
Jacob William Thyfault  
Diana Cristina Tovar  
Dechen Wangmo

**Economics**

Karla Armenta  
Jorge Luis Casanova Jr  
Sejal Chhetri  
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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

Class of

2023



# Arts & Culture

Meagan Garcia, editor



## 'Gathering for Water': Bringing life to the community



Dancer performs for those in attendance of "Our secrets as we shed them: Experiencing the Bosque reimagined" on April 20. Photo by Joel Molina/The Prospector

BY ERIK ACOSTA  
The Prospector



UTEP held a two-week dance festival celebrating earth's most fundamental element, leaving its audience captivated by the beauty of the performances and message. Gathering for Water, a dance festival put together by Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, Friends of the Rio Bosque and the Fine Arts Department at UTEP. It is a body of work that highlights the importance of water and the impact it has on our planet's health and survival. The festival offered various events for people to see such as pop-up water dances, an art exhibition and more. The festival continued

to honor this resource at a dance show called "Our secrets as we shed them, Experiencing the Bosque reimagined." A walk-through experience moves its audience through a magical surrealistic world inspired by Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, divided into four sections containing separate stories, leaving viewers mesmerized by the dancers. Building headpieces and ushering for the show, UTEP student Lee Nixon was in awe of the show's narration and the dancers. "I loved the bird section and getting to build those headpieces and then seeing how magical the dancers looked in the space was really gratifying," Nixon said. "I was in awe for most of the narration and the serene music really brings you

into the space of all the creatures and plants in the Bosque only to have that disrupted by the trash and pollution people have brought, it's almost distressing how it hits you." Each section of the Bosque is explored, starting with grasslands, oceans and wetlands and finishing in the freezing Arctic. Audience members get to explore the relationship between animals and plants as they navigate through trash in each section. Playing as a bird, Nelissa Vera believes the meaning behind the play is important and encourages people to attend the show since it is an entirely new experience. "People should come to the show because it is something new here in our department, something that has never been done before," Vera

said. "The meaning of our show is really important cause it's about nature and how trash can destroy the environment and the animals are impacted by that." As the show ends, viewers meet the ghost of the Bosque played by Simone Velazquez, a section of the show that symbolizes how trash and pollution impact Bosques, destroying animals and planets. Having two roles for the water dance festival, Velazquez felt playing the ghost of Bosque was the easiest to connect with. "Playing the first role was really personal to me because I love nature, so it was very easy for me to connect into the role I was trying to portray, I believe in all of these energies, so it was easy to embody this ghost of the Bosque," Velazquez

said. "The second role was a little bit hard because I am portraying a Victorian dancer who is very abstract and is powerful, so it was difficult for me to portray that." It is important to remember how vital it is to protect our water so that it remains healthy. According to an article from The Texas Tribune earlier this month, Texas has the fifth-highest rate of lead in water pipes, which can be cause for all sorts of negative health and environment effects. So, while this festival celebrates this element, it can also be a wake-up call to protect our water systems and environment, so future generations can celebrate it like we do today.

Erik Acosta is a staff reporter and may be reached at emacosta6@miners.utep.edu



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# The borderland's wrestling roots branch out

BY MARIA L. GUERRERO  
The Prospector



*Editor's note: This is the second part of a three-part series.*

At the heart of the ring, a young El Pasoan luchadora has grown to love the sport and has become a well-known figure in the wrestling world. La ruda, Persephone, formerly known as Black Widow, is a 21-year-old UTEP graduate who has been wrestling for eight years and has recently signed with Lucha Libre AAA Worldwide, Mexico's top wrestling league.

Persephone, whose real name remains anonymous, graduated from UTEP in May 2022 with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology with a concentration in clinical exercise.

In lucha libre, wrestlers fall into two categories, rudos or técnicos. Rudos are those who have a tyrannical role, they are the "mean" guys of the ring. Being a técnico means that you go by the rules and are loyal to your team. Persephone, with her original character Black Widow, started lucha libre in the rudos team in her early teens. Despite her being the only luchadora in her family, her love for sports, especially for lucha libre, was impressed on her at a very young age, making her interested in becoming a professional luchadora.

"I started because I really liked it since I was little," Persephone said. "My whole family is into it so they would take me to lucha shows in El Paso and Ciudad Juárez. My dad put me into a lot of sports growing up, so I thought it was just another sport to try. I really liked it, I (stuck) with it, I started like maybe eight years ago, training, and I'm still here."

With the support of her parents, Persephone was able to make a name for herself, while still grow-

ing up like a normal teenager. Like any regular teenager, the attention her parents were giving her seemed overwhelming, but now looking back she appreciates all the efforts made by them and cherishes the memories they made together.

"I started really young, I debuted in front of a crowd at 15, when I started traveling, I was maybe 17, so my parents were a little protective and worried," Persephone said. "One of my favorite memories is how much they would travel with me, it was always fun going to shows with them, seeing them out there, hanging out with them. Cause now that I'm here in Mexico, and I travel so much more on a professional level they obviously don't really travel with me anymore, they're at home."

As a student,

Persephone found the perfect way to combine sports with her higher education and passion in sports medicine, by finding a degree that would allow her to be familiar with injuries from first-hand experience and put her knowledge to use in the ring and in other sports as well.

"I love that my major and wrestling connect so well, because I worked in a physical therapy clinical, I worked in different athletic training rooms," Persephone said.

"So, literally my job as a student and I guess my 'normal' career was taking care of athletes. It translates perfectly cause when I get hurt, my husband gets hurt or even when I was in Juárez, other wrestlers they would get hurt and I already knew what to do."

Being a student at UTEP is different than any other college experience because it is a commuter school. The unique location of the university invites students from all

over the city and across the border to go on really long drives to get an education, Persephone is no exception. On top of being a border commuter, she had to balance her two lives and busy schedules.

"It was really hard," Persephone said. "Especially because I wanted to finish a little quickly, so I started taking from 15 to 18 hours a semester. I was trying to train, go to the gym, and I lived in Juarez, that made it worse. Having to cross really early, like two hours early, that was not fun. I have a lot of memories, even wrestlers already

it was normal for me to have a computer and do an assignment in a locker room or when I getting ready to wrestle. I was trying to get assignments done in between sports, it was really hectic."

Despite her years in college being extremely demanding, la ruda enjoyed her time in El Paso and the borderland's essence and influence in lucha libre.

"I loved it, the crowd is just so loving," Persephone said. "Now that I moved to Mexico City, and I'm signed to a big company so I'm a little more known now, I still feel the same love when I go back home. Even if you keep growing and you move out you still feel that love from Juarez and El Paso. Like when I first signed to triple A, I got so many messages from people from Juarez and El Paso, like 'Esa es nuestra frontera.' You just feel the support from the frontera, no matter where you go."

Persephone will come to El Paso, for the show "Collateral Damage," 7 p.m., May 12, at the Delgado Legacy Borderplex.

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Photo courtesy of Persephone

# Clue Killer Portfolio: A twist to graphic design

BY AVERY ESCAMILLA  
The Prospector



Murder mystery art covers the glass gallery showcasing the graphics of talented UTEP senior artists.

The senior lecture is holding its annual end-of-semester gallery, "Clue Killer Portfolio Exhibit," to showcase all designs made this semester. The audience will solve the murder mystery through the student's designs.

Distinguished professor Clive Cochran lectures Graphic Design 9, a senior portfolio class.

The idea of an end-of-semester exhibition was pitched by Professor Jean Julio in 2009.

This was an opportunity to view their students' progress and provide

helpful feedback.

"We look at the work in the student show, we can see where students are doing well and perhaps where they need to improve a little bit," Cochran said. "The students always put up their best work, and the shows have been pretty successful."

Every exhibition is run by the students in the graphic design class. Each student is responsible for working with one another and coming up with a theme, what art they are going to showcase, how the gallery will look, catering and even the dates the show will open, including reception day.

"It's a complete mystery to me what they're going to do because again, the students are responsible for doing this," Cochran

said. "Now, very often they throw ideas by me, they ask for a certain amount of help in putting everything together and I can provide advice, but they decide how the show is going to be hung."

Senior Jes Rivera, a double major in graphic design and metals, is one of the many students taking Cochran's class.

"We've had a pretty easy time, mostly because a lot of us have very similar mindsets and can kind of bounce ideas off of each other pretty quickly," Rivera said.

The student-run show takes many hours of their day to prepare for the exhibit. Many of the students are going to showcase their packaging, posters and other elements related to the popular board game Clue.

Austin Esparza, a senior in graphic

design is the one who has taken charge by helping guide his classmates through this process.

"It's been lots of fun, but it's been a lot of work," Esparza said. "We started back in the beginning of the semester, and we cemented a theme and whatnot, but just trying to get kind of little nuances together to make it seem collective and put together, it's a lot of work."

Senior graphic design student Alyssa Robles shared her experience throughout the semester.

"It's been pretty stressful, but it's been a long time coming with all the work that we've been doing throughout our career and learning graphic design, it's family coming to like an end," Robles said.

The journey has not ended just yet as these students will be meeting

May 30 to set up the whole exhibit.

The Clue Killer Portfolio Exhibit reception will officially open May 1 through May 12 in the Glass Gallery. At 6:30 p.m., May 8, students will host the reception where attendees will be given a Clue game sheet where they will be able to solve the murder mystery with the stories provided by the student's artwork. Many of these guests are artists who want to network with the students and offer multiple different job opportunities.

Make sure to join in on the fun and solve the murder mystery. For more information about the exhibit, visit the Instagram [@utep\\_doart](https://www.instagram.com/utep_doart).

Avery Escamilla-Wendell is the staff reporter and may be reached at [amescamilla@miners.utep.edu](mailto:amescamilla@miners.utep.edu) or on Instagram [@by\\_avery\\_escamilla](https://www.instagram.com/by_avery_escamilla).



# The final curtain call for UTEP grads

BY H. CATCHING MARGINOT  
The Prospector



In the late 1940s, if a UTEP student needed to blow off some steam, chances are they would be told to head straight toward the Union Ballroom. The goal was to create a special space of vibrance to encompass a fun social spirit to benefit both students and faculty of the university. Soon, the ballroom was converted into the UTEP Dinner Theatre, where it serves as a rich theatre program to students to this day. This helped the Theatre Program blossom into a useful tool for aspiring performers in front and behind the stage.

Carolina Caldera, a soon to be UTEP graduate studying theatre is someone who knows this well, as she has worked both on and behind the stage. As a young fan of musicals, Caldera knew this was the field for her.

“I have always been a fan of musicals since I was six years old (specifically ‘The Phantom of the Opera: the 25th Anniversary edition’), but when I was in high school, I decided to pursue theatre,” Caldera said.

Caldera soon did her first high school play, finding joy in how theatre made life more interesting in her eyes, everyday being different during a new run of a show. Although Caldera had acting ambi-



UTEP Theatre graduate and San Antonio native Elias Perales has worked on plays such “Borderline - A Southwest Premier Ghost Story” and plans to pursue graduate school. **Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector**

tions, she started out behind the scenes at The Wise Family Theatre, working on sets.

“Even though I was not performing at the time, this experience helped me as an actor,” Caldera said. “I realized how much work goes into creating the space for an actor, how that ties up with the story that the actor creates with (their) character.”

Caldera went on countless auditions, never giving up on her dream and after much hard work, she has done three shows at the Dinner Theatre, including “The Full Monty.” Caldera expects to continue the arts in El Paso to gain more

experience and encourages aspiring theatre students to get experience now while you can.

Some students who have thrived in the theatre space have done so by accident, later connecting to the community. This is the case for one upcoming UTEP theatre graduates and San Antonio native Elias Perales.

It was eighth grade when Perales accidentally stumbled into his school’s theatre class instead of his scheduled one, resulting in a great mistake. After that day, Perales continued theatre, throughout high school, excelling in the advanced theatre classes. Perales credits his

late high school theatre teacher Jenifer Frederick as the jumping point to pursue theatre in college.

“She was an amazing teacher, she really brought me up and made me more confident in myself,” Perales said. “She passed my sophomore year of high school, and that was when I thought I wanted to pursue theatre. She made me realize how collaborative, caring and open it is to be a part of theatre, everybody working together to create something for audiences to watch and think about was one of the main reasons I decided to pursue theatre in college.”

Soon Elias came to UTEP from San Antonio, finding an appreciation in UTEP’s Theatre Program and later becoming a key figure in it. One of Perales’ favorite memories was working on the show “Borderline - A Southwest Premiere Ghost Story” by Andrew Sianez-De La O.

“Our director Kim had been talking to him for about two years and stayed in contact with him,” Perales said. “When we ended up doing it, we got to really improvise, be collaborative with the script instead of just normally doing what the script is telling you, expanding on what was already there.”

Perales hopes to pursue graduate school and encourages aspiring performers to not limit themselves. Matthew Nunez is a theatre stu-

dent set to graduate this May who has found his calling in the arts later in his academic career.

Nunez tried theater his senior year of high school but went on to pursue many fields from philosophy to English. It was not until the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, that Nunez took his shot with theatre at UTEP.

“It was in 2020, in COVID when everything shut down and I did an assessment on myself. I’m not happy pursuing these (previous majors) and it is best I go back to something that I love, theatre,” Nunez said.

With two musicals igniting his spark, one being “Shrek, the Musical,” Nunez enrolled in the program, never looking back. Nunez credits the community aspect as one of the many reasons for his love of the program.

“Every time I am able to do a show, first rehearsals, the first reading of the script, whether or not I’m tired, whether or not I’m going through something in life; it always reminds me I did something right,” Nunez said.

Similar to a lot of other students, COVID-19 made these Theatre Art students push a hard reset button in their lives, and now they have found their passion and purpose.

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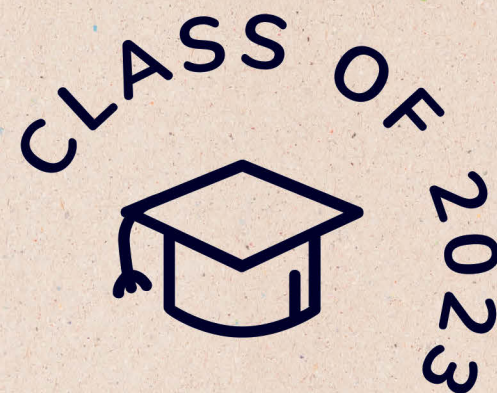
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STUDENT MEDIA  
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# The Full Monty brings a full house



“The Full Monty” is showing at the UTEP Dinner Theatre from April 21 to May 7. **Photo by SalmaPaola Baca/The Prospector**



“The Full Monty” centers around a friend group who start a strip tease act to earn money. **Photo by SalmaPaola Baca/The Prospector**

**BY ERIK ACOSTA**  
The Prospector



With the semester winding down, the UTEP Dinner Theatre decided to end its 40th anniversary with a bang, performing “The Full Monty.” With a packed opening night, the award-winning musical opened April 21, filling the air with laughter and cheers.

Based on the Academy Award-nominated film, the musical offers its audience a journey exploring friendship and self-respect with its famous score and dance sequences to ensure a grand old time.

The story takes place in the late ‘90s in Buffalo, New York and centers around a group of friends, one of them, Jerry (John Levick), is looking for money so he can pay for child support to see his son. He soon comes up with an idea to start a strip tease act with the help of his buddy Dave (Zaid Ricarte).

Soon Jerry and Dave find four other men as well as his former boss to join his group; Malcom (Angel Rodriguez), Horse (Allen Thompson), Ethan (Ulises Cordova) and Harold (Freddie Nevarez). Together these men dance and strip their way into the audiences’ hearts, leaving them wanting more.

With the show’s closing number around the corner, the strip tease

act took center stage to perform their number, entertaining the audience with laughs and ending the show on a high note.

An El Paso native, Anna Rodarte, went to see the show with her mom and considers the experience to be worthwhile.

“I thought it was such a great show, it was really well produced, and it looked very well-rehearsed,” Rodarte said. “My favorite part of the show was all the musicals, I am a big fan of musicals, so it was great to see it live, and I would come see it again just to get the same experience. I feel like if you watch this show over and over again, it would be funny as the first time.”

Other characters to mention are Georgie (Chole Curtis), Pam (Elise M. Herndon), Vicki (Keri Baggs), Jeanette (Carol Viescas) and Nathan (Kal Spencer) who all had standout performances throughout the show.

As the last few performances start to wind down, one special star, Zaid Ricarte, who plays Dave, enjoys every moment on stage as he will be graduating soon and will leave a place he considers home.

Joining the UTEP Dinner Theatre in 2017 during its 35th anniversary, Ricarte always wanted to perform. Since then, his dreams have come full circle as he performed in every

show that the Dinner Theatre has put on.

“I always loved performing, ever since I was little, I have a memory of having a little karaoke machine that I used to use a lot,” Ricarte said. “When I found out about auditions in 2017 for the Addams family here at the Dinner Theatre, I was like ‘I have to do this,’ and ever since then I been lucky enough to do almost every show.”

Ricarte feels the happiest when he is on stage and recalls the excitement of seeing an audience smile or laugh throughout his performances as one of the most rewarding moments for him.

“This show really gave me an excitement and a security in myself that I don’t think I have ever found before, and I think performing just makes me really happy and excited,” Ricarte said. “And sometimes when I look out in the audience during the finale or bows, it really makes my heart happy and warm to see people really enjoying the show.”

With this show being his graduating performance as a UTEP student, Ricarte still has plans to continue acting in hopes of doing it professionally, as he considers his dinner theatre experience the most rewarding thing he has done.

“I am excited mostly for the future and what’s to come, I have also

become very emotional ever since we started this rehearsal process and doing things for the last time as a student, and I owe a lot of myself and training to the UTEP Dinner Theatre,” Ricarte said. “This show, role and anniversary has been a very full circle moment for me, it has been rewarding and I’m excited to come back so I can give back to this place that has taught me so much.”

As closing night approaches, Ricarte will always cherish his experience and the friendships he has made here. He considers Gregory Taylor, Beverly Kerbs-Ward, and Jaime Barba as professors who have impacted him and his learning.

“I owe a lot to myself and who I am to this place, to my teachers and I think a lot of my college identity and experience was fermented here, I created so many friendships here,” Ricarte said. “So, on closing night, I think I’m going to feel sad just because it has been a big part of my life over these past years, but I am excited on what’s to come.”

The Full Monty still has a couple of shows remaining, so take a friend or a family member and do not miss out on this musical which will close May 7. For more information about tickets and hours, visit the UTEP Dinner Theatre website.

Erik Acosta is a staff reporter and may be reached at emacosta6@miners.utep.edu

## Building a life around a passion for photos

**BY ELISHA NUÑEZ**  
The Prospector



Graduation season has arrived, which means many students are preparing to show off their brand-new caps and gowns to the world. Like any important occasion, graduation is one that requires kept memories. That said, photographers are being booked by the dozen, including some of UTEP’s student photographers. While they finish up their exams and team projects, they are also booked to capture the journey of future graduates.

Not all photographers at UTEP are studying photography. From computer science to theatre majors, anyone who has an eye for the perfect picture can have a passion for photography.

“I’ve gotten more bookings. Since we have a lot of actors graduating from the Department of Theater and Dance, we have a lot of headshots for grad schools that need to be taken,” said Fern Trousdale, a theatre education junior at UTEP. “When it came to photography, I found a lot of joy in taking pictures of other people because sometimes you can’t always remember the memories that may have happened. Since I do theater, one of their biggest things is capturing what’s on stage.”

While the photographers are the professionals behind the camera, they are also the students learning from their professors. Being a student, especially full-time, can mean more work from school and business. Despite the amount of work these students are put through, many find ways to follow up with their clients, and plan on doing more projects in the future.

“I have done one graduation shoot and I’m trying to get more. I do have another graduation shoot, but it’s for a high schooler,” said Christian Solis, a student creative assistant (for) UTEP Athletics. “I think if I post more, I’ll start getting more work. I know what it takes to do those shoots, so if I did have more, I’m pretty sure I would be more filled up with my schedule.”

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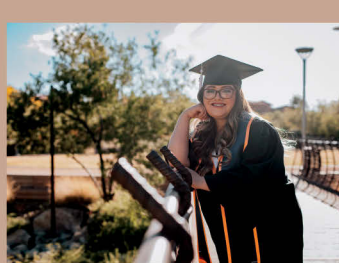
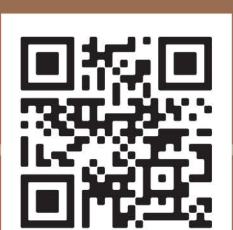
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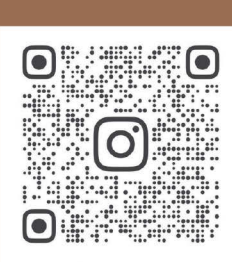
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# Sports

Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela, editor



## Senior spotlight: Isabel Brooks



Isabel Brooks, UTEP Rifle Team member and mechanical engineering major, will be graduating in spring 2023. **Photo by Joel Molina/The Prospector**

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL  
The Prospector



Rifle team member Isabel Brooks is originally from Houston, Texas and decided to attend UTEP for the rifle team. Brooks is a senior mechanical engineering major and will be graduating this spring and has been named part of the Top 10 Senior in that department. Brooks plans to continue with the rifle team for another year as she plans to pursue a master's degree in electrical engineering at UTEP.

Brooks got her start in rifle through a 4-H club in Houston when she was a junior in high school. Brooks has been doing rifle

for almost seven years now. Brooks says she was able to visit UTEP on an unofficial visit for rifle where, at the same time, she was able to see the mechanical engineering department and all it had to offer.

"(I) was super happy with the program and very excited about the chance to get to shoot in college and be a student athlete," Brooks said.

For Brooks doing rifle was love at first sight. There is no other sport she sees herself playing, Brooks says her favorite thing about rifle is that it is repetitive and relaxing allowing one to let go and go with the flow, while still applying some control. When it comes to rifle, Brooks is

inspired by her parents because they introduced her to the sport.

"You're just trying to do the same thing over and over again and replicate the same picture, the same weight distribution in your model," Brooks said. "They're always who I go to when something is happening or going on that I need help with."

Brooks earned Conference USA (C-USA) Commissioner's Academic honors and the C-USA Commissioner's Academic honor roll for 2020, 2021 and 2022. During her junior year, Brooks led the team seven times in smallbore and six times in air rifle and registered the highest aggregate score in seven matches. Brooks shot a personal best 587 in air rifle at the National Collegiate Athletic Association qualifier in Alaska. That same year, Brooks posted a career-high 1167 aggregate twice.

Being a part of the UTEP rifle team has meant a lot to Brooks. She says that it was what brought her to El Paso, and it has been her home away from home while in school.

Balancing school and college athletics is difficult at times, Brooks says it is okay if everything is not perfectly balanced.

"(The team) gave me a support system 800 miles away from home and it's helped me come into my own a little bit and find my own groove and my friends and my family," Brooks said. "It takes a lot of falling on your face to figure out what works for you, because what works for me isn't gonna work for the next person. You have to decide how organized you need things to be to get things to work and how

rigid your schedule needs to be. It mostly just comes down to deciding what you want to get out of things, to balance everything."

COVID-19 was a tough challenge, Brooks says her most memorable moment with the rifle team was the first matches of the year where they were able to have fans at the range to cheer them on after the pandemic. Being able to have her family and friends cheer them on was a great experience.

There are days when life gets hard. Brooks says that on the days where she feels unmotivated, she takes the time to rest and make a list of everything she needs to get done right then and there.

"Everything else besides that just gets put aside to a later date and I just try to rest and be nice to myself because you can't always operate at 100 percent all the time," Brooks said.

Once Brooks graduates from UTEP with her master's degree, she wants to give back and help support her community.

"I'm looking at going into power generation and I feel like, that's a really good way to help provide for the community and all of those around me and try to help in little ways," Brooks said.

Brooks ended the interview with a message to her teammates.

"Thank you for all of your help, support and love, it has definitely made it a very memorable 4 years and I'm looking forward to another year with some new faces," Brooks said.

Katrina Villarreal is the multimedia editor and may be reached at kvillarreal1@miners.utep.edu

## Chihuahuas' mixed start to season

BY H. CATCHING MARGINOT  
The Prospector



This spring has brought back the offerings fans love from jumbo hot dogs to colorful in-game fireworks, and if you are a fan in the El Paso community, then you are more familiar with The El Paso Chihuahuas baseball team.

The team has played 25 games in April, five of which were against the Salt Lake Bees. So far, the Chihuahuas have won seven games and lost 14, with an average of eight games behind. Among the teams listed in the league, the Chihuahuas have the lowest winning percentage rate of .333 percent.

Rainier Galaviz, a first-year student studying digital media production, works at the Chihuahuas Stadium.

"We've had two home games so far, the next one is next Tuesday, and I think the season is going well," Galaviz said. "Some losses here and there but few to worry about, we had Tatis Jr. also known as 'El Nino,' a player who plays for the Padres in the MLB (Major League Baseball)."

Tatis, nicknamed "El Niño," has been a star player for the Chihuahuas, hitting seven home runs and 17 hits in total for his eight games played. Tatis was relegated to the Chihuahuas after an injury that took place in his time with the MLB's San Diego Padres. Luis Liberto has appeared in the most games this season at 21 games. Liberto has had nine runs, 17 hits at bat, and one home run. The team's best performance was their match against the Sugar Land Space Cowboys on March 31. With a score of 14 to 3 in the end, the team was 3-1 in the bottom of the sixth inning, soon coming back with 13 runs, lead-off hitter Matthew Batten touched base four times to secure the win for the Chihuahuas.

Iziah Salas, a mechanical engineering student at UTEP, describes himself as a lifelong Chihuahuas fan.

"I loved the promotions when Tatis was there, it is amazing to have MLB superstars here in front of us in El Paso."

With a popular 2022 season El Paso Chihuahuas fans are still excited to see how this current season plays out. Having started out with a bang but going up and down with wins and losses since then, fans still are curious where the season may end up. Fans' support for the sport and the team may lead the team into the positive direction.

H. Catching Marginot is a contributor and may be reached at hcmarginot@miners.utep.edu.

Brooks was a part of the Conference USA Commissioner's Academic Medalist and Honor Roll since 2020. **Photo by Joel Molina/The Prospector**





# Dance team ends season at the top

PROSPECTOR STAFF REPORT  
The Prospector

The UTEP Dance team placed first at the National Dance Alliance (NDA) D1-A Spirit Rally National Championship Friday, April 7, in Daytona Beach, Florida.

The NDA has been in place since 1976 and has facilitated competitions from elementary cheer groups to collegiate championships. The group also contributes to charities like the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Generation Spirit, formerly The Sparkle Effect.

The team, who performs across various campus and athletic events, headed to Daytona, Florida. The team competed in the competition's semifinals round Wednesday, April 5 and were allowed to continue the following day for the finals round.

Both performances clocked in at two minutes and twenty-six seconds. The performances can be viewed on Varsity TV through a premium subscription.

UTEP celebrated the dance champions April 13 at Centennial Plaza. The team was joined by Cheer Coach Leslie Lopez and the UTEP Marching Miners.

The Prospector may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).



TOP LEFT: The UTEP Dance team cheers at a pep rally celebrating the team's champion status April 13 at Centennial Plaza.

TOP RIGHT: The UTEP Marching Miners played various pep tunes dedicated to the UTEP Dance Team.

BOTTOM: The UTEP Dance team placed first at the National Dance Alliance (NDA) D1 A Spirit Rally National Championship Friday, April 7, in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Photos by Jasmin Campoya/The Prospector

Read more at [theprospectordaily.com](https://theprospectordaily.com)  
**UTEP Dance ranks supreme**  
April 7, 2023  
Story by: Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela, Sports Editor  
Photos by: Joel Molina, Photographer

## What about the women's 2022 basketball season?

BY NICHOLAS MAES  
The Prospector

The 2022-23 women's basketball season proved to be an eventful one as the Miners beat a ranked opponent for the first time in 25 years and only the second time in program history. The women began their season with a five-game winning streak, only getting stumped by Sacramento State (14-18, Big Sky 7-11) just two weeks into the season.

The Miners also took on New Mexico State (18-17, WAC 10-8) twice on Nov. 30 and Dec. 13, 2022 two weeks apart and came out on top for both games. In between these two games, the team did take a loss to the Air Force Academy in a three-point affair.

Although the Miners ended 2022 with a New Year's Eve loss to Rice (23-9, C-USA 13-7), the Miners entered the New Year with a win against Louisiana Tech (19-13, C-USA 12-8). The Miners would then go on to defeat the Charlotte 49ers (12-19, C-USA 7-13) by an eight-point margin. One of the tighter games of the season was against the Florida International University (FIU) Panthers (14-19, C-USA 7-13), as the Miners only lost by two points.

Following a one-point win against Florida Atlantic (12-18, C-USA 5-15) and a two-point loss against Western Kentucky (19-14, C-USA 14-6), UTEP faced off against

Middle Tennessee (28-5, C-USA 18-2). The UTEP women pulled off an upset against the 21-ranked Blue Raiders, winning by a razor sharp margin of three points.

Following the historic win, the Miners took another two-point loss against Western Kentucky but pulled off wins against both Charlotte and the University of Texas at San Antonio (13-19, C-USA 9-11). Middle Tennessee dealt the Miners a difficult four-point loss in their final game of the regular season.

The C-USA Tournament provided a strong start for the Miners, with a ten-point win against LA Tech, but ended with a heart wrenching six-point loss against Middle Tennessee. The National Invitation Tournament stint was cut short when the Miners took a 13-point loss against the Texas Tech Raiders (20-15, C-USA 6-12).

The women proved to be a strong team during the 2022-23 season. With a 12-8 standing in C-USA, the Miners gained more than they lost. The win against 21-ranked Middle Tennessee was huge not only for the program but for the players as well.

"I felt like we had a pretty good group of girls this season," said senior guard Erin Wilson. "We got pretty far this season, there were a couple of games that we lost, but it wasn't by much. We never had a game that we got blew out by a lot of points, so overall I felt like this was a pretty good season, and we accomplished a lot together."

Wilson has spent most of her life playing basketball, starting at the age of four, and began playing competitively at age six. Coming to UTEP off an Achilles injury, the then-sophomore played a key role in UTEP's rise, playing an average of 16.5 minutes per game.

Erin was particularly proud of the team's historic win against Middle Tennessee, as she wanted to relive that moment from the season.

"I think the feeling and the energy that we got from the Middle Tennessee game when we won," Wilson said. "That energy was in the moment, and I would definitely redo that again, with the same results of course."

With the new coaching staff in for the 2023-24 season, Wilson acknowledges the new coaching and training staff and her own goals for the season.

"Next season, I want a ring. That's the bottom line," Wilson said. "I think with this new coaching staff that is coming in, they are very critical on their players, and I think that they're going to bring some good energy, some great people, and I think overall that's the goal, especially before I leave out of this place, I wanted one so bad, last year we were so close, and I think I just want it even more now, so that is the goal."

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## 'Scoring' outside the playing field

BY MARCO HINOJOSA  
The Prospector

Everyone faces the difficulty of figuring out life post-graduation, athletes are no exception. Life after graduation is always portrayed as something bleak and worrisome, but that is not always the case. Athletes mix the lifestyles of academics and fitness into one and sports becomes the center point of their collegiate career.

The season of graduation brings a transitioning period for many, an era of coming to terms on what to do with yourself and your future. For athletes, some continue to pursue their athletic dreams, while others accompany new aspirations.

UTEP student and football player Chase Bibler talks about the challenges transitioning from graduation to a career.

"I feel like the hardest thing is probably the mindset of everything," Bibler said. "Most of the times you hear with all athletes 'obviously the goal is to go pro' or to be at the next level when most of the case, only a certain fraction of these people actually make it."

But only so many can do so. According to Exact Sports, only 1.6 percent of football players in the NCAA go pro.

"Obviously, I wish to be in football as long as I can but in reality, not everyone is able to compete," Bibler says. "So, for me my goal ac-

tually is to join federal law enforcement. I have a couple of people that I know who are in DA Homeland Security, a ton of high divisions and they have been helping me with internships and resources here in El Paso to help me get to that next goal in life."

Strategic communications graduate assistant and former student athlete, Lilliana Valdespino talks about the challenges of changing to a career.

"Others want a whole different new path and I think it's trying to not just snip away your athletic career but to take what you have learned being a student athlete and just transitioning that into the real world," Valdespino said.

It is no doubt that the skills obtained during college can benefit a future career.

Another student athlete who agrees with taking what was learned and utilizing it is UTEP student and cheerleader Natalie Nuñez.

"Some skills I picked up would be taking on that leadership role," Nuñez said. "I know I wasn't really a leader on the cheer team but just being a cheerleader really makes you get out there and be the leader for yourself. I was able to (take) that leadership position and transitioning it to my job."

Whether it is leadership, teamwork or individual growth they will take these experiences into their future careers.

Marco Hinojosa is the audience and engagement editor and may be reached at [mhinojosa4@miners.utep.edu](mailto:mhinojosa4@miners.utep.edu).



# Andrea Ostos' 'fairway' to international success

BY EMMANUEL RIVAS  
The Prospector



*Editor's note: This is the final part of a three-part series featuring student-athletes from the Mexican State of Chihuahua.*

Between playing golf, attending classes at UTEP and occasionally running her own small home bakery, senior golfer Andrea Ostos has found her international experience to be fulfilling.

In Ostos' hometown of Chihuahua, Mexico, golf is not considered a popular sport. As Ostos explained, only three women have found professional success in the sport, including junior Alison Gastelum who played with Ostos while in high school. Gastelum currently plays for the New Mexico State women's golf team.

The road to UTEP has been a rowdy one for Ostos as she spent some time in the U.S. at a young age. Her father was offered a job in Michigan when she was in elementary school. While at Michigan, Ostos learned English, something that has paid off today.

"It was hard for me to learn English back then," Ostos said. "I used to cry about it with my mom. We don't have any American girls on the team, so I forced myself to also be an example or to be someone able to hear and speak a lot of English."



Andrea Ostos was born in Chihuahua, Mexico and now plays for UTEP Golf. Photo courtesy of GCU Athletics.

Like most athletes, Ostos did not start off by playing golf. Starting with tennis, Ostos spent a lot of her time at the local country club in Chihuahua. Ostos finally began playing golf at the age of 10, but her introduction to the sport started much sooner, stemming from her time in Michigan.

"My dad was surrounded by a lot of coworkers that liked to play golf," Ostos said. "One day, they took him out to play golf. He thought it was a good idea to take us, my older sister and me. I was seven at the time and he bought some \$50 golf clubs from Walmart. I came back to Chihuahua the year after, and I didn't get to play golf until I was about 10. I actually started playing tennis and then I remembered golf."

When Ostos came to UTEP, she

noticed there was a strain on the team's chemistry. This is something that bothered her, pushing Ostos to help change the culture amongst the team and in the process, she became a leader.

"It was hard for me my freshman year," Ostos said. "I saw that there was a lot of division on the team. I made myself a promise that I would be more inclusive and have a good environment at all times for everybody, because it's not easy doing what we do. I do try to lead by example, not so much by words. I'm not giving motivational speeches all the time and stuff but just leading by example."

Although Ostos is set to graduate this May, she intends to continue her education by completing a master's in leadership studies.

This, along with her bachelor's in marketing, allows Ostos to start a business after hopefully becoming a professional in the upstart golf association LIV.

"I went to a LIV tournament, which is the other professional golf league in the U.S., and I loved it," Ostos said. "I would love to go pro, like it's obviously one of my biggest dreams. I do have a lot of life plans for myself and goals that I'd love to accomplish. I do want to focus and maybe start some businesses here. I'm passionate about food, so I'd love to have many restaurants."

Despite her commitment to staying in the U.S., Ostos has not forgotten about her home country.

"I would love to go back to Mexico at some point and live there again," Ostos said. "It's a beautiful

country, but I also want to stay around golf if I do not go professional."

Reflecting on her choice to study in the U.S., Ostos provides advice for those athletes who may be considering the drastic and overwhelming change.

"Hug your parents and your family as much as you can before you come," Ostos said. "You never really understand the value of being with your family until you leave them. If it's not your family, your friends, your boyfriend, your girlfriend, whatever it is like, just to love the people that you have at home. Be ready to create new memories, new friendships and to not be afraid of being who you are, because eventually, the right people will come to you."

The spring season is over for the women's golf team as they competed in the 2023 Conference USA Golf Tournament April 13 through April 15 in Palm Beach, Florida. The team placed eighth overall out of nine teams. Ostos tied for nineteenth at-large and was the highest placed Miner with a plus 16 over par and an average score of just over 77 per round.

Ostos has one more year of eligibility due to the COVID-19 pandemic and plans to keep playing for the Miners.

Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela Armendariz is the sports editor and may be reached at [erivas7@miners.utep.edu](mailto:erivas7@miners.utep.edu); @rivasemmanuel2 on Instagram



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