Farewell to our editor-in-chief

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Parting ways with The Prospector

BY EMILY AUTUMN VELASQUEZ
The Prospector

The day of saying goodbye to the University of Texas at El Paso has come and it is never one that I thought I would dread, at least not for the season I am currently doing. Sure, everyone fears the idea of starting a new career or forging a new path, but never did I fear that I would want to stay longer at a place that is focused on academics.

Upon reflection, my time at The Prospector has given me so much more than experience in the field of journalism. It has provided me with not only friends, family, and connections, but a place to leave behind—a legacy. I never imagined that I would leave behind something as amazing as the staff I have formed today, nor did I ever think it would feel like leaving a piece of myself behind. I am so proud of every piece of work that I have contributed to this publication, and I know its success will continue even after I part ways with it.

In the fall of 2021, I became the sports editor and it felt as if I had been thrown into a fire. I had never worked in a newspaper outside of high school, and I was petrified. However, I found success with the help of my colleagues and decided to take the next step. At the end of May, I decided to apply for editor-in-chief and started my new position in June. Imagine my surprise when I was just as scared as when I first joined the publication. There were plenty of stressful situations and late nights spent at the office in my time as editor-in-chief, having to find new team members to fill my staff and panicking when things were not working out as I intended. However, I would not take a single one back as it led me to the place and person I am today. I am incredibly proud of the time here and my success and it is due to the people that helped me along the way.

Thank you to my family for providing me with the unconditional love and support necessary for me to embark on this adventure and find success in my time at UTEP. From the rides to and from events to the reassurance offered when I felt overwhelmed, I could not have done it without you. To my mom and my aunt Connie, your support throughout my life has allowed me to see that I could do whatever my heart desired, even if my mind changed a couple times along the way. My only hope is that I continue to make you proud in my future endeavors.

Thank you to my close friends outside of the publication that supported me and pushed me to be the best version of myself. You all found me love and support in the best ways and I will forever be indebted to you for it.

Thank you, Nathaniel, for being the first person to hear me out when I wanted to pursue this journey and encouraging me to take the step and apply for editor-in-chief, it means more to me than you will ever know. George and Crystal Enriquez, you two have become so important to me in such a short amount of time and I will forever remember the way you took me into your family with open arms or the way you exhibited such excitement when you found out about my new position at the paper.

I am so lucky to have you guys in my corner and I truly cherish the bond we have.

Thank you to my previous advisor, Michelle Martinez Rivers. It is with confidence and support in me that I found my love for journalism. Without your continued support and advice, I would never have been able to be half the person or journalist I am today.

Thank you, Izél (Fifteen) Giron. There are not a lot of souls that are as pure and amazing as yours, and I am so lucky to have found not only an amazing reporter and multimedia editor in you, but also a best friend. The things you have done in your time here have been amazing and I cannot wait to see what you continue to do after I leave here. You always talk about how hard it will be for you when I leave, but I have never talked about how hard it is to be leaving you behind. Working and finding a successful publica- tion with my best friend has been a pleasure I will cherish forever. I know in my absence you will do nothing short of amazing work.

Thank you, Victoria (Nicole) Duran. When I joined the editorial team here, I never thought we would get as close as we have, but in you I found a sounding board, someone to rely on, and someone who was always willing to listen and help in any capacity possible. Seeing you grow as a writer and opening up with each passing day was a treasure to witness, but there was nothing that made me happier than when you grew an admiration for football. You are an amazing individual and an extremely hard worker, and I cannot wait to see what you do from here.

Thank you, Anahy Diaz, for being the role model that I never knew I needed. While my confidence was a roller coaster for you, the confidence you have in yourself and in me is one that I will forever thank you for. Seeing you make all your dreams come true, one step at a time, is the reason you are one of the biggest inspirations I have had the pleasure of meeting. I miss you every day, but I love knowing that if I ever need you, you are only a message away. Thank you, Victoria Rivers. You may be one of the smallest and most dramatic people I know, but in knowing you I have encountered one of the biggest hearts. Your contributions after a graceful exit in the spring meant more to me than you will ever know. I am so proud of you for juggling all that you have, and I cannot wait to see what you continue to do.

Thank you, Annabella Miracles, you are an astonishing photographer who happens to be not only a fashion icon, but a friend near and dear to my heart. I may not always show my love for you, but to begin to describe how much your friendship means to me, I ran out of words. You are a light every time you walk into the office and an amazing photo editor, I can’t wait to see where your photos take you.

Thank you, Veronica Gonzalez (and bestie llama). You and the front staff helped me with so much more than I could have ever anticipated and welcomed me into this position with open arms. Every step of the way you have supported me, guided me when necessary, listened to me, shaped me into the person I am today, and you have been an astonishing mentor whom I am grateful to have grown so close to.

Thank you, Tracy Roy, for being a major part of the person I have become in my last year at UTEP. Not only did you help shape me into an amazing editor, but you contributed to me becoming a better person. You never made me feel like any of my ideas were bad, even when I was petrified. I am forever grateful to you.

Tank you, Nathaniel, for being as pure and amazing as yours, and I may be one of the smallest and working here at the same time and for any capacity you can and for the reasons I currently do. Sure, you are a mentor, someone I care for, and someone I will admire even after my departure. Thank you, Amy Bocanegra. Your constant hard work around the office has never gone unnoticed by me. You are always willing to help in any capacity you can and for the reasons I currently do. You have been an amazing photo editor, I can’t wait to see where your photos take you.

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Tank you to the rest of my team: Fatima Alvarado, Maya Alvarado, Joseline Avila, Multimedio Editor; Meagan Elizabeth Garcia, Editor in Chief; Emily Autumn Velasquez, Editor-in-Chief; Anahy Diaz, for being the role model that I never knew I needed. While my confidence was a roller coaster for you, the confidence you have in yourself and in me is one that I will forever thank you for. Seeing you make all your dreams come true, one step at a time, is the reason you are one of the biggest inspirations I have had the pleasure of meeting. I miss you every day, but I love knowing that if I ever need you, you are only a message away.

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The real treasure is the friends we got to make along the way

BY KRISTEN SCHEAFFER
The Prospector

As I am sitting here at my laptop, typing away at what may be the most sentimental piece I have written for The Prospector, I cannot help but see the faces of my fellow writers. We all met and became friends because of our passion for words, news and photography. These students welcomed me when I, a non-native of El Paso, was trying to find a place with like-minded individuals who I could call friends. My first semester with the paper was the semester back after COVID-19. Julian, editor-in-chief at the time, saw my potential and gave me a chance.

As my time progressed, I slowly became more acquainted with the others, and I will be forever grateful for that. When I became staff reporter in my spring semester, I became more acquainted with each and every one of my coworkers. Some saw me cry, some heard me laugh, and I opened up to others. I would not be able to shout out to those I have known since the words, but I do want to reach out to everyone because this story laugh, and I opened up to others. and every one of my coworkers. became more acquainted with each

When I, a non-native of El Paso, was

To Maria and Katrina, you guys found a friend in me when I discovered we shared a passion for books. You both are phenomenal people and will go on to do great things. Albert, you were the first person I cried to. You made me feel comfortable when things got stressful.

To Itzel and Emily, I will remember how you inspired me with your tenacity for your work. I was left in awe of how you two could juggle everything without breaking a sweat (or a nail). To Anabelle, you were one of the first people to go out of your way to become my friend and you are one of the sweetest people I know. I will also be forever envious of your style.

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“I would not be able to shout out to those I have known since the words, but I do want to reach out to everyone because this story laugh, and I opened up to others.” Kristen Scheaffer

Maybe I should have said something more profound, but I am the person I am today because of the people around me. I wish I had space to say everything I am feeling. Every one of these people became my family away from home, and I could not ask for more in a community.

Kristen Scheaffer
Contributor, The Prospector

Allyson, my road buddy for life. Keep writing because your words will soar. To Eli, Jose, Brandy, and Ethan—I did not really get close with you guys until this semester, but I feel like we lost time because of it. Hopefully we cross paths again with the internship. Emmanuel, Megan, Jasmin and Roman, I am sorry we only got to know one another for the semester. I enjoyed our conversations and I hope you guys thrive in your future endeavors and I will miss you. Vero, Isa, and Amy, you guys have been an amazing support system for us as we tried to become stronger writers. You will be greatly missed. Tracy, I already miss you and thank you for the one-on-one we had when I was stressed. Last, but certainly not least, Professor Gannon, as my semester and my time at UTEP is coming to an end, I am realizing how much I have learned. I will probably still second-guess myself, but you pushed me to do things I was not sure I could do.

I have become a better journalist, leader, person and friend. I will forever be indebted to The Prospector and can be reached at krischeaff@utexas.uap.edu.

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Saying goodbye is a chance to say ‘thank you’ for it all

BY TRACY ROY

Goodbyes are an opportunity to express appreciation to those to whom you are bidding farewell. It is exceedingly difficult to leave my role as the editor-in-chief and editorial adviser in Student Media and Publications, and there is simply no good time to depart from my students. The timing would be terrible whether it was in two weeks or two years.

By the time you read this, I will already be gone to my new town and new role. I have a wonderful opportunity in Albuquerque to work as a magazine editor, which will allow me to live in the same town as my husband, spend more time with my children and take care of other responsibilities. While it is difficult to leave a job I love, the change is necessary to set up my life in a way that functions better for everyone in it. I will take a moment to give a nod to the wonderful students and talented professionals I have had the pleasure of working with during my time at UTEP.

When I first started at UTEP, Claudia “Gigi” Flores was at the helm of the student newspaper as editor-in-chief, and to this day, her leadership, creativity and kindness shine as she completes a graduate degree in education.

The talented Brianna Chávez, now a reporter for KVIA ABC-7 in El Paso, worked with me until nearly midnight on her last day. It was an extremely chaotic day.

Of that first group, Isaih Ramirez was a steady presence as a sports reporter and was here longer than most. Another longtime sports reporter who will be missed is Daniel “Danny” Alexis Lopez. This is where I also need to mention sports editor Michael Corviello. He was a huge presence during my time here, and although I was in the mentorship role to the students, Michael mentored me plenty of times as well. He is a good person and a great friend.

Véronica Núñez, Gisela Sánchez, Marisol Chávez, and Maria Ramos were exceptional women.

Rodríguez, yoali Rodriguez, Karina Christopher Renteria, Alyson Abril Garcia, Meagan Garcia, Itzel Silva Fernandez, Eduardo Flores, Castro, Gianluca Cuevas, Alberto Baca, Diego Ballesteros, Jasmin Amado, Josie Avila, Salma Paola theprospectordaily.com

MAKE SURE TO FOLLOW US!

I have had the pleasure of working with during my time at UTEP.

“I will cherish the experience I have had here at UTEP and in this role and will be forever grateful for the opportunity to serve students.”

Tracy Roy
Former Prospector Editorial Adviser

that you have taken the steps to get experience and bolster your future careers through working at Student Media and Publications.

I would like to thank Amy Bochner for being such an organized administrative leader in the depart-

ment. You do a lot, and your hard work is appreciated. Isabel Castillo, thank you for your never-ending patience and moral support. You have known me since my early 20s and through all my changes as well as all the different scenarios we have encountered in the department. You are always there with your infinite wisdom and steady help.

I will miss you tremendously.

Veronica Gonzalez, you have been the most amazing boss. Truly could not have been a better experience with you at the helm of this department. I have watched the students turn to you time and again for everything under the sun, and you never waver in your com-

mitment to them. You are patient, helpful, empathetic, and above all, kind. Over the 20 years I have known you, you have always been understanding, thoughtful and caring toward everyone. Your reliability and patience – not just with the students but the staff, too – are unparalleled.

Thank you for everything and I will miss you.

I will cherish the experience I have had here at UTEP and in this role and will be forever grateful for the opportunity to serve students.

BY JOEL MOLINA

A farewell letter from talented Joel Molina

The Prospector

When you graduate high school, if you desire to go to college then you know what your next step in life is, but after you graduate college unless you have something lined up right away, it may be the first time in your life that you do not know what is next, and that is where I am at in my life.

I am unsure of what the next step is, but I am sure it is just the next part of the journey. A journey that I feel extremely lucky to have inter-

twined with the University of Texas at El Paso and The Prospector. My journey began when I read my first book and watched my very first movie. I remember being impressed with how transportive they each were, at a young age. While I cannot say I knew I wanted to be a storyteller then, it was some-

thing that I feel was engrained in my mind from that moment on. It was not until I started my journey at UTEP that I was fully able to realize that storytelling was the path I wanted to take.

Although my time at UTEP was not a normal one due to CO-

VID-19, the multimedia journalism program helped me express my desire for storytelling in multiple ways. I got to learn from professors who have years of experience in the journalism field and I was able to pick up skills and techniques that I will use for the rest of my career.

career students or students of anything for that matter, we have a vast knowledge of how stressful class can be when you have a sub-

stantial amount of work, incredibly high-weight exams or short dead-

lines. I was able to see a lot about it, but I could do it all over again and make the experience any easier, I would not because I would be doing a disservice to myself. Al-

though it did not seem like it at the time, those hard times were helping prepare me for the future and I feel all the better for it now.

I have one regret in my college career, it would be not joining The Prospector sooner. In the short time I was a part of it, I was able to put what I learned in class to use, and I was able to work with and learn from some of the most talented and brilliant people whom I am excited to see what the future has in store for.

I still remember the first time my name was published on a story. My parents and I were excited to see something that I had worked on and that was a feeling I will never forget. While it is my regret I did not join sooner, I am sure glad that I decided to turn in the application and join. It will always be a point of my life I look back fondly at and will not take for granted. When I find success in my career, I will owe that success to The Prospector and the incredible people there.

Four years go by in the blink of an eye, it feels like it was just yesterday that I was at my new UTEP stu-
dent orientation. The cliché thing to say is that you should savor every moment because you can never take it back. I for one have heard that a lot and I always find when you are in the moment, that is not what you want to hear. Once you get out of that moment, however, you realize that you should have savored it. So, I am going to say the cliché thing and tell you to savor each and every moment, whether you are in college or not, because it truly goes by quicker than you think.
UTEP graduate is a hero in the making

BY ALYSON RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

UTEP nursing student David Moreno is one of the many students graduating during this fall commencement. Moreno is ready to serve in the workforce and pursue a career of serving his community, which he already has extensive experience in doing.

Moreno is majoring in nursing and minoring in aerospace studies. He was inspired to become a nurse after seeing his mom pursue the selfless career during his childhood. He began pursuing this dream by attending Silva Health Magnet High School where he received his Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification.

“I can’t believe that I’m at this point now,” Moreno said. “It’s kind of crazy to think how far I’ve come, knowledge and skill wise.”

The nursing program is one of the most intense and competitive programs one can go through at UTEP. The curriculum includes countless hours of studying pharmaceuticals, interventions, procedures and participating in clinicals to utilize and practice the skills learned in the classroom.

When Moreno is not tackling the classes in his degree plan, he is an active member of UTEP’s Air Force ROTC detachment 505, originally based out of NMSU, but UTEP has a wing as well. “I’m basically contracted to work as a nurse in the Air Force starting in Oct. 2023,” Moreno said. “One of my best friends and mentors essentially told me that I should really consider the military if I was looking for that brother/sisterhood and that desire to serve beyond what a normal nurse would do. It’s a career of servitude. I just wanted something else. I also wanted to do battlefield nursing and more dangerous opportunities.”

Moreno likes to challenge himself physically and mentally. Aside from studying to be a nurse, being a certified EMT and a member of the Air Force, Moreno is also a volunteer firefighter in his spare time.

Moreover, Moreno enjoyed living regular college experiences such as studying in the library with his classmates and attending tailgates with his friends.

“Some of my favorite memories have definitely been going to the tailgates with my best friends,” Moreno said. “Lots of really funny memories I have include being with my nursing group in the library. We basically lived there for two and a half years and lots of funny conversations were had there. I’m definitely going to miss hanging out with my nursing group and suffering and stressing together.”

The future is bright for Moreno. His future plans include saving lives, serving in the Air Force and learning in critical care settings. His dream is to be in flight nursing in the Air Force, which consists of critical care transport teams. He really wants to be a part of the special operation’s surgical team.

People who are a part of this elite team are trained in combat operations, techniques and medicine and use their skills to help victims on the battlefield. After accomplishing that, he would like to go back to school and become a CRNA, which is a nurse anesthetist.

“Take accountability and ownership over your life,” Moreno said. “If you dig yourself into a hole or put yourself where you find yourself in a negative situation and you constantly blame other people for your circumstances then you are putting yourself in a powerless position. By taking ownership and accountability of the situation you’re in and saying ‘okay, I put myself in this hole and I can get myself out’ then you are giving yourself the power to make the changes necessary. That method of thinking completely changed my outlook on life.”

Alyson Rodriguez is a staff reporter and may be reached at aerodriguez20@miners.utep.edu; @alyson_rod1127 on Twitter.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

2022 Fall Commencement

DON HASKINS CENTER

Saturday, December 10, 2022

1 p.m.
Health Sciences and Nursing

6 p.m.
Engineering and Science

Sunday, December 11, 2022

1 p.m.
Liberal Arts

6 p.m.
Business Administration and Education

For information: www.utep.edu/commencement
According to the scholarly article "Running out of STEM," there has been a high rate at which students in the science, technology, engineering, and math departments drop out. However, students like biochemistry major Stephanie Chavez are going against those odds and graduating this fall.

Chavez says that UTEP has helped her toward her goal of becoming a physician and a neurologist. Chavez says that UTEP's Freshman Year Research Intensive Sequence (FYRIS) helped her achieve a lot in only her first year as a college student.

"I got to be in a lab and work under Professor Narayan for a whole year," Chavez said. "I was able to get published in a paper, and I don't think any other freshman can probably say they've been published like that, and that's one of the things that I'm very grateful for at UTEP.

Chavez was published in the National Library of Medicine for a collaborative piece titled "Nanocarriers as Potential Drug Delivery Candidates for Overcoming the Blood-Brain Barrier: Challenges and Possibilities."

While taking part in research with several professors and being a biochemistry student, Chavez stresses the importance of joining organizations, and how they fulfilled her college experience. "I feel like we're like a hidden gemstone, but there's so much going on in this university," Chavez said. "We're a commuter school, and people come to class and then they just go home, but if you get involved and you join clubs or organizations, you're going to have a blast and get so much out of it."

Chavez was a part of organizations such as the Miner Ambassador program, the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) and the Minority Association for Pre-Medical Students (MAPS). Chavez says she plans on going to Paul L. Foster School of Medicine or another medical school to help her achieve her career goals.

Chavez says she was inspired to become a neurologist due to her medical history. "I had brain surgery during the Spring of 2020," Chavez said. "It was just a cyst, nothing crazy, but I was just so fascinated on how they were able to go into my brain through my nose. I just think it's awesome how this tiny little thing that's only a few centimeters big can have this huge impact on your entire body. I was undecided on what I wanted to do in the medical field before this, but this made me realize what I wanted to do."

Chavez says that El Paso and other communities are medically underserved. She wants to continue her education in order to be able to educate people on what is happening with their bodies and help them get the treatment they need.

Since she is graduating, Chavez wanted to share some advice, specifically for other STEM majors, who are going through a tough time finishing up their degrees. "You're not alone," Chavez said. "The Pre-Med field is so competitive, and you want to try to be this perfect person on paper, but there's no such thing. If that's what you want to do, keep working towards it and keep pushing through because at the end of the day, it's going to work out, and then you'll look back and think about how easy that class was and ask yourself why you were crying about it. You have to remember there is a light at the end of the tunnel."

According to the University of Washington, it takes the average college grad three to six months to find employment after graduation, according to the University of Washington. The Department of Numbers in Texas reported El Paso's Current Employment Statistics (CES) employment reached its peak of 329,900 in July. According to the employer survey, 3,100 jobs had been lost in El Paso in that time. Carlos said that he does not find it that hard to find new jobs here in El Paso due to the technological advances that have opened new opportunities for future generations, but he emphasized that the real struggle is to find a job that you like and matches your career goals.

For students experiencing difficulty finding a job, the Career Center at UTEP is there to provide assistance on student's career goals. The center helps UTEP students, before and after graduation, to jumpstart their career and not go into the career world lost or confused.

BY SOPHIA KILLALOOS
The Prospector

Before Carlos Yanar graduated from UTEP with a degree in finance, he knew he would have to start his search for jobs in order to start his career. In El Paso, there is a lot of competition for higher paying jobs, but not enough positions. "After graduating, I thought I wouldn't have any problem getting a finance job," Yanar said. "Finding a job became the least of my problems when I realized even getting interviews is a challenge."

It takes the average college grad three to six months to find employment after graduation, according to the University of Washington. The Department of Numbers in Texas reported El Paso's Current Employment Statistics (CES) employment reached its peak of 329,900 in July. According to the employer survey, 3,100 jobs had been lost in El Paso in that time.

According to the University of Washington, it takes the average college graduate three to six months to find employment following graduation. The center helps UTEP students, before and after graduation, to jumpstart their career and not go into the career world lost or confused.

BY BRISTEN SCHAEFFER
The Prospector

David Sanchez, Training and Development Consultant in Human Resources at the University of Texas at El Paso, has been holding workshops on emotional intelligence and building stronger interpersonal relationships. An El Paso native, Sanchez, got his professional start because he became a father so young.

Sanchez said that he was resistant to any kind of assistance at the time. It was not until a case worker that was working with his wife recognized how good of a dad he was and asked him to help as an educator.

Sanchez said that he does not find it hard to find new jobs here in El Paso due to the technological advances that have opened new opportunities for future generations, but he emphasized that the real struggle is to find a job that you like and matches your career goals.

For students experiencing difficulty finding a job, the Career Center at UTEP is there to provide assistance on student's career goals. The center helps UTEP students, before and after graduation, to jumpstart their career and not go into the career world lost or confused.

David Sanchez is a training and development consultant in human resources at UTEP. Photo by Jasmin Campayo/The Prospector

According to the University of Washington, it takes the average college graduate three to six months to find employment following graduation. The center helps UTEP students, before and after graduation, to jumpstart their career and not go into the career world lost or confused.
Preparing grads for a competitive field

BY EDUARDO A. FLORES
The Prospector

Many students have questioned at one point in their lives what will happen after receiving their diploma and walking the stage. The University of Texas at El Paso has maintained the goal of helping every student succeed and prepare them for their future. Volunteering, studying abroad and internships are just some examples of the opportunities that UTEP offers to students before they graduate to explore their curiosity and passions in fun and rewarding experiences.

The UTEP Office of Scholarships offers several resources for finding funding to help graduating seniors continue their college education through graduate school. ScholarMine is the official portal for finding different scholarship opportunities created for students to apply for scholarships to continue their college education.

The UTEP Alumni Mentoring Program is designed to provide our students with an opportunity to develop and enhance their awareness of professionalism in the workplace, employer expectations, and behaviors that lead to career success,” according to a statement released by the UTEP Alumni Association.

Experience from previous positions is a plus when companies hunt for employees. As a result, references and letters of recommendation are necessary for companies to decide who is the better candidate. According to the New York Times, “Ticketmaster in particular is in hot water with Taylor Swift fans after her tickets went on sale Nov. 15. For her Eras tour, sales aimed to work with a presale verification process prior to a Capital One and SiriusXM partnership. The UTEP Alumni Association provides mentorship and resources to students with an opportunity to develop and enhance their awareness of professionalism in the workplace, employer expectations, and behaviors that lead to career success.”

Ticketmaster vs. Swift fans

BY MEAGAN GARCIA
The Prospector

When it comes to artists and the concerts they host across the globe, there is no one more dedicated to ticket-buying than fans. However, this whole process can be ruined by those that sell tickets based on unfair and unmonitored sales.

Ticketmaster in particular is in hot water with Taylor Swift fans after her tickets went on sale Nov. 15. For her Eras tour, sales aimed to work with a presale verification process prior to a Capital One and general sale to ensure “true fans” got tickets. However this led to resulted in line for hours, people getting kicked out of line, multiple card charges, site crashes and the canceling of the general public sale.

Fans flooded social media with complaints about the flaws within their system and demanded change or outside regulation on what seems to be a growing monopoly according to the New York Times. “It’s really difficult for me to see how Ticketmaster aims to remedy this situation. “It’s really difficult for me to trust an outside entity with these relationships and loyalties, and excruciating for me to just watch mistakes happen with no recourse.”

Earlier this year, UTEP and Grow with Google partnered with the HSI Career Readiness Program to prepare students to pursue digital-skills-based jobs through career workshops and counseling, programs about design thinking, project management and professional brand building.

The alumni career services provided by the Career Center feature resources and essential information which can help students throughout the application process for graduate school or a prospective place of employment. In the same way, career fairs are hosted throughout the city and even remotely.

School districts, local businesses, state and national organizations and world companies are constantly seeking recent graduates to fit their goals. The UTEP Alumni Association provides mentorship to prepare graduating students for a successful transition into their careers.

The University Career Center assists students during and after their undergraduate years. Some services include résumé reviews, job search assistance, interview coaching, on-campus and virtual mock interviews, career closet, and employer contacts. Graphic by Fatima Alvarado

UTEP students can visit the University Career Center to receive help with resume reviews, job search assistance, interview coaching, on-campus and virtual mock interviews, career closet, and employer contacts.
Gun control pressure: The scandal behind coalitions

BY MARIA L. GUERRERO DURAN
The Prospector

Editor's note: This is the third of a three-part series on the reasoning and the impact of climate change protests through attacks on art.

The Just Stop Oil coalition has been continuously striking to bring attention from the British government to stop new fossil fuel licensing and production. Strangely enough, after the coalition was founded Feb. 14, and the movement started getting attention from the media, they received fundings from none other than the heiresses of Getty Oil.

American oil heiress, Aileen Getty is granddaughter to J. Paul Getty, oil tycoon and founder of the Getty Museum in Los Angeles. According to the Art Newspaper, Aileen Getty co-founded the non-profit Climate Action Legal Defense Network. The organization and individuals around the world committed to responding to the climate emergency and treating our planet and its inhabitants with kindness and respect.

More coalitions have been following the example of Just Stop Oil in the European Union, one of them being Letzte Generation, German for “Last Generation.” The protests from this group there led oil afer a Gustav Klimt painting Nov. 15 at the Leopold Museum in Vienna. The group tweeted on their profile, “new oil and gas wells are a death sentence for humanity.”

One of the arguments made by art historian, Anne Perry, questioned the action plan of these coalitions and argued that direct attacks to collections purchased by robber barons would be more effective. The attack to Klimt’s “Death and Life” painting is an example of how they have started doing just that. The Leopold Museum in Vienna has been partnering with the Austrian oil, gas and petrochemical company Austrian Mineral Oil Administration Stock Company (OMV). The company has listed on their website several art institutions with whom they have been partners for many years.

As the protests continue to happen across Europe, and donors continue to donate to amend their actions through financial gifts, the big incognita remains to hang on the mind of many spectators, “How will the arts solve the problem?”

As Vice President, Gamez shared the impact these types of workshops can have on students.

“The big goal is to give students exposure to these skills so that they can gain confidence when they are applying to these big tech companies,” Gamez said. “It feels amazing to be able to help students get into internships and full-time roles. I am really grateful for the opportunity to help others ultimately.”

The Google Developer Student Club at UTEP will be hosting more workshops and events in the future. To learn more about the Google Developer Student Club, follow them on Instagram @gsdustepe.

Environmental activist group named Just Stop Oil coalition attacks to bring attention from the British government to stop new fossil fuel licensing and production. Photo courtesy of Matt HKrac/Flickr

Gun control pressure: The scandal behind coalitions

By Victoria Rivas
Guest Contributor

Weeks after the midterm elections, national concern and discussions for gun reform have risen across the country.

Two days before Thanksgiving, Tuesday, Nov. 22, six people were killed and two people were injured after a Walmart manager opened fire against his co-workers before a routine employee meeting in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Around 90 customers were inside the store at the time of the shooting.

The gunman, Andre Bing, 31, later shot himself to death and left a note claiming his co-workers were killed and two people were injured. It occurred after a fellow student and former football player opened fire when the group of students returned to the University of Virginia (UVA) campus from a field trip.

President Biden signed a bi- partisan gun safety bill June 25, the first in decades.

The bill includes stricter background checks for buyers between 18 and 21, funding for mental health programs and states perprieve to implement red flag laws and ban people convicted of domestic abuse from firearms.

Despite the significant gun reform, Biden announced that his administration would continue to take greater action and address gun control amid the recent shootings.

“Jill [Biden] and I grieve for those families, for the Chesapeake community, and for the Commonwealth of Virginia, which just suffered a terrible shooting at the University of Virginia this month,” said Biden in a statement.

Saturday, Nov. 19, five people were killed and at least 25 were injured in Colorado Springs, Colorado after a gunman opened fire inside an LGBTQ+ nightclub.

According to AP News, Anderson Lee Aldrich, 22, has been arrested for the shooting at Club Q and is being held without bond. The suspect had been previously arrested in connection to a bomb threat.

Biden responded in a statement and called this attack a “horrific hate violence” and promised to fight for the protection of the LGBTQ+ community as he remembered the similar shooting in Orlando, Florida, six years ago. “Places that are supposed to be safe spaces of acceptance and celebration should never be turned into places of terror and violence,” Biden said. “Yet it happens far too often. We must drive out the inequities that contribute to violence against LGBTQ+ people. We cannot and must not tolerate hate.”

Despite the recent shootings, a survey conducted by Gallup shows 57 percent of adults support stricter gun laws, a decrease from 66 percent in June.

BY ALISON RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

UTEP students got to experience and learn alongside Googlers at the first UTEP + HOLAg Cloud Code Google Cloud Hero event. The event was hosted by the new student organization, Google Developer Student Club, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Nov. 18 at the El Paso Natural Gas Center.

“We are focusing on machine learning and data analytics to help students get familiarized with cloud computing and all of the things that they can do with data manipulation,” said David Gamez, Vice President of the Google Developer Student Club at UTEP.

“Tere was a total of about 90 students from different majors in attendance of the event. The event included a gamified experience with Google experts to bring together developers from different backgrounds to learn about Google Cloud technologies through friendly competition.

“We are here in partnership with the Google Developers Student Club who is leading the Cloud Hero Event,” said Arely Silva, Campus Outreach Program Manager for Hispanic Serving Institutions at Google. “Tis event is going to teach you the skills that you need to not only be successful in your interview but also in the rest of your career as well. Specifcally, within Cloud that is growing.”

Gamez explains that Google reached out to them to establish the Google Developer Student Club. With the help and sponsorship from Google, the club was able to host this event.

Eight Googlers from out of town in attendance to give exposure into the industry and provide networking opportunities with professionals.

“This workshop can be for any major,” Gamez said. “No matter what your background is, you have the opportunity to learn these skills for yourself. Tese skills are very valuable because machine learning and artifcial intelligence is getting into every industry in the market right now.”

Students who registered for the Google Cloud Hero event were given “Google swag.”

Te merchandise included a Google tote bag, water bottle, notebook, pen and stickers. Free food and snacks were also provided throughout the event.

“I think this event is a great opportunity to see what the workforce is really like,” said Javier Vasquez, junior in computer science. “Tey gives you an insight on the resources available with google and it’s also really fun. It has been a great experience so far.”

As Vice President, Gamez shared the impact these types of workshops can have on students.

“The big goal is to give students exposure to these skills so that they can gain confidence when they are applying to these big tech companies,” Gamez said. “It feels amazing to be able to help students get into internships and full-time roles. I am really grateful for the opportunity to help others ultimately.”

The Google Developer Student Club at UTEP will be hosting more workshops and events in the future. To learn more about the Google Developer Student Club, follow them on Instagram @gsdustepe.
Grads recall the best words of advice from professors

BY JOSE AVILA

The Prospector

Seniors are preparing to say goodbye to the University of Texas at El Paso at the upcoming commencement. This moment can be bittersweet for students as many leave friends behind, student organizations or their on-campus job. However, many graduates will be able to take something away with them for the rest of their lives, words of advice from their professors. This story highlights three graduating seniors and the best piece of advice they received from a professor in their time at UTEP. Digital media production senior, Adrian Soto, reflected on the encouraging words his professors gave him throughout his college journey. According to Soto, his professors told him, “Keep going. You’re going to come up with ideas that will be rejected out there (in the film industry) but there’s so much opportunity out there. Just don’t let any of that stuff stop you.”

Digital media will be Soto’s second bachelor’s degree. His first one was in criminal justice, and after working for five years, he decided to go back to school to pursue his career. After the stress of not liking his career overwhelmed him, he knew he had to do something about it. “I felt like I had another call. I wanted to pursue my passion, and something that I love is film. I just love creating videos, editing sound and simply talking about the film in general. I’m ready to become a creator of something,” Soto said.

Although Soto wished he had started earlier, he realized this sooner, his professor’s advice reassured him it was okay to change after what he loves. Naomi Posada, a psychology major and soon to be graduate shared that one of her professors asked to speak to her after class. Although she was nervous at first, the conversation consisted of her professor recognizing the good work she was doing in class and encouraging her to work with a research lab. “I felt really honored because he is a really good professor. It kind of pushed me to see my worth,” Posada said. “It also gave me confidence in my major because I doubted myself and it definitely confirmed that I did belong there.”

Moreover, Posada said her professor’s words pushed her to believe in herself and go after opportunities she had not otherwise deemed herself qualified for. “If you are a computer science, computer engineering, or electrical engineering major, you may be familiar with the microprocessor systems class. According to Fernando Salinas, an electrical engineering senior, both times he took this course he noticed it started with about 20 students at the beginning. Toward the end, the class would end up with about 25 students because of its high drop rate.”

“Many people quit engineering before finishing it; one of my friends ended up switching majors,” Salinas said. Upon passing the course, Salinas felt great relief and says those words from his professor contributed to helping him become more self-motivated. “I gave it my all the second time and got a B which is really good. Considering most people quit because it is really hard. Two of my friends ended up switching majors,” Salinas said.

As Salinas finished the course, he started thinking about the school and his future. “I felt supported by my parents but I’m not something less of what my parents want me to be,” he said. “I do know that it comes from a good place, but the lack of knowledge she has on what it takes to continue in education can be overwhelming.”

This process of going through higher education, in fact at times overwhelming on any student. The unknown pressures from your parents

BY ITZEL GIRON

The Prospector

Graduation comes with all varieties of pressures; however, one pressure can at times be overwhelming, having parents who have received their college degree before you have received yours. It can be a pressure that can either push or break students when trying to complete their academic career. For some students, parents want their children to be better than their own achievements, which creates a stress common in many college students. “I’ve always felt this weight of having to do better or making sure I’m not something less of what my parents were,” said Pauline Ortega, UTEP elementary education major. “I feel supported by my parents but on the inside, I get anxiety attacks and hide it from them because these attacks stem from the want of them wanting me to be this star.”

This pressure from parents creates a deeper stress for students whoID not feel understood or feel like they must drop out. Stress among college students is not something new, it is something that has become more common in about 44 percent of students, according to the American College Health Association. For Alec Rodela, UTEP mechanical engineering student, the pressure Ortega felt was mutual in his household as well. “I didn’t feel any stress knowing that she had completed higher education. I did feel some pressure from my parent to complete it myself and to continue higher than she did,” Rodela said. “I do know that it comes from a good place, but the lack of knowledge she has on what it takes to continue in education can be overwhelming.”

Through this stress does not just come from parents who have a higher education, in fact at times the stress from parents can be overwhelming on any student. “I have friends who have maybe dealt with the same stress I have or even more so from their parents who don’t have a college degree,” Ortega said. “I think it’s more so the fact that parents put this big weight on top of their children hoping they do better than what they were able to achieve.”

Through this, stress can lead to many mental illnesses, eating disorders, low sleep and low self-confidence according to Bay Atlantic University. Even when parents do not see it as added pressure but rather encouragement.

There are ways for parents to help their children and not add unnecessary stress levels or feelings of encouraging or talking to their child can make the difference as how a student interprets their words. Engaging your conversation can also be better than what one might have achieved is not something to feel guilty about, but maybe something that should be reconsidered before telling a child to “be better.”

The class ring is one of many ways to commemorate high school and college graduations and is a tradition that has been a part of the history of the U.S. for many years. Photo by Joseph Molina/The Prospector

The class ring is one of many ways to commemorate high school and college graduations and is a tradition that has been a part of the history of the U.S. for many years. “From a dull wax model to final gleaming product, each personalized ring takes dozens of workers, dozens of hours to complete, dozens of people to work in design and pertained to the ring’s right hand, that way it will not be confused with the ring on the other hand,” said Itzel Giron, UTEP student graduating this December, speaks on the best advice he was given by one of his professors and helped him through his college career. Photo by Giana Melendez/Courtesy/The Prospector

Grad’s recall the best words of advice from professors
The Prospector wishes fall grads good luck

The Prospector staff poses in front of the Lhakhang Temple Nov. 3. Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

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Congratulations to our Grads!

Nayeli Ontiveros - Senator-at-Large
Collegiate Engineering Senator

Jacob J. Morales - Senator-at-Large

Anika M. Valencia
Collegiate Education Senator

Alessandra B. Vasquez
Protemp Supreme Court Justice

Cassandra Aldaz
Student Assistant

The Student Government Association would like to recognize our graduating senior, Cassandra Aldaz!

Cassy’s three years of service to our office were instrumental in creating the functionality and atmosphere it is today. Her graduation is a testament to her resilience and beautiful character. We know wherever life takes her, she will blossom! Best wishes and you will be missed, Cassy!
SUMMER 2022
Graduate
College of Education
Doctor of Philosophy
Claudia Leticia Angel Barron
Osvaldo Delgado-Corona
Melba De La Luz Medina
Cynthia Rosario Edmond
Jonathan Slager

Master of Science
Lucas Temeante-Abrantes
Alonso C. Vazquez
Jazmin Abril Arellano
Alejandro Amador
Lucas Tameirao Abrantes

Master of Arts
Alejandra Vasquez-Macias
Stephen Qiang Mitchell

Master of Education
Alejandra Vasquez-Macias

Master of Science
Angela David Armenta
Christian Javier Delgado
Carlos Adolfo Cortes Pliego
Michael Paul Colvert
Cassandra L. Cazares
Faith Carr

Master of Business Administration
Maria de los Angeles Gonzalez

College of Business Administration
Doctor of Business Administration
Hector Hugo Estrada Medinilla

Doctor of Pharmacy
Oneida Vasquez

College of Health Sciences
Doctor of Philosophy
Georgina Sanchez Garcia

Doctor of Physical Therapy
Marina Nicole Olmo

Master of Public Health
Pooja Tewari

College of Nursing
Doctor of Science in Nursing
Takuya, Lila Alonen
Jennifer Conner

College of Education
Doctor of Philosophy
Hector Hugo Estrada Medinilla

Doctor of Education
Erika Marlene Nieto

College of Engineering
Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
Harlen Nathamy Garcia Zeppada
Lauren T. Johnson
Justin Tyler Johnson
Elisa Perea
Valeria Ramos
William J. Williamson

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering
Jonathan Cervantes
Jonathan Conners
Homer F. Falcon
Elia Vanessa Lecirio
Alam Melendez

Bachelor of Science in Industrial & Systems Engineering
Jesus Alejandro Gutierrez Ariza
Hamid Hukkari
Daula Sara Rivera
Cecilia N. Soto

Bachelor of Science
Lutel O. Dzikwa
Luis Miguel Proctor
Bryan Ruiz
Caroline Lynna Talas

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
Juan Mateo Aragon
Luis Fernando Hernandez
Dustin Reece Loyda
Jonathan Martinez
Christian Alexander Vasquez

Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
Noe De Jesus Aguilar
Aubuchon W. A. S. A. Aubuchon
Andrew Isaiah Callardo
Juan Guerero
Lisa Marie Lonsky
Miranda Actird Lova
Javrin L. Stover
Rogelio Angel Loya
Andres Maldonado Mirilla
Jesus Alfredo Ortiz Guerra
Carolina Victoria Puebla
David F. Salas

Bachelor of Science in Metallurgical & Materials Engineering
Charles John Moyer III
Joshua Miranda
Vanessa-Nazi Morales-Romero
Jorge Abraham Ochoa

College of Liberal Arts

Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science
Diego Villanueva Balzar

Bachelor of Arts
Fabio Marlena Acosta
Edith Ayupay
Jas Affolter-Aguirre

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
Congratulations Class of 2022!
We are proud of you!

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

Class of 2022: Congratulations of your achievements!
We can’t wait to see your next step, and we want you to stay connected to us!
Thank you for helping us to build our future together!
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!
Congratulations
Class of 2022

The Prospector · November 29, 2022

The University of Texas at El Paso
Congratulations to our Grads!

Cyntia Ortega

Nathan Sung Yeup Lee
David Huizar
Daniel Antonio Espejo
Ashley Alejandra Delgado

Bachelor of Science in Engineering Leadership
Christopher R. Ramirez

Bachelor of Science in Industrial 
& Systems Engineering
Hadiel Zaid Al-Alawini
Emiliano Barrera
Gerardo Cuevas
Miguel Esteban Olivas
Nidia Aleida Esparriza
Karla Daniela Gonzalez
Aviere Nathazeth Guerrero
Viviane De Jesus Guzman-Gonzalez
Aurora Michelle Hernandez-Arriola
Salma Jhonny Hurtado
Enrique Martinez
Jorge A. Ortega Quintero
Rafael Perez Montes
Naira Pamela Rubakula
Laura Cristina Toral Velez
Alejandro Vazquez
Bruna Vianey Ynez Vazquez

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
Antonio Andres Aquino
Denise A. Aguilar
Adrienne Rance
Alfredo Ace
Joseph Andres Baca
Sandia Sheksherba Barrios
Aaron Dustin Brown
Roberto Carrasco
Kiyon Javari Rezaie Clemmons
Alyssandra Monique Cordero
Alejandra De La Pena
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Hector Garcia Jr.
Luis C. Garcia
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Angela Guadalupe Mendez Contreras
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Jorge Alberto Rodriguez
Roberto Javier Rodriguez-Velarde
David Ruiz
Juan Fernandez Salinas Sida
Peter R. Sanchez
Damee Unestepph
Alberto L. Valles
Eduardo Zubieta

Boyd Logsan III
Nicholas Anthony Lopez
Maris Loungisopides
Andrew Alexandre Mora
Angela Guadalupe Mendez Contreras
Cesar Emmanuel Merigli
Daniel Merola
Jose Molina
Juan Francisco Muller
Ablaji J. Ortega
Matias Ortigoza
Miguel A. Payan Jr.
Roberto Ramirez
Richard Reyes
Adriana Rivero
Jorge Alberto Rodriguez
Roberto Javier Rodriguez-Velarde
David Ruiz
Juan Fernandez Salinas Sida
Peter R. Sanchez
Damee Unestepph
Alberto L. Valles
Eduardo Zubieta

Congratulations to our Grads!

Cyntia Ortega
Caps off to you, Miners! Your determination and perseverance has led you to this great accomplishment. The UTEP Career Center services are available to you after graduation.

Go Miners!

Congratulations, Graduates!

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2022 GRADUATES THE BEST ON THEIR FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

GO MINERS!

VICE PRESIDENT FOR BUSINESS AFFAIRS

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

All 2022 Graduates and all other filled with success and important milestone!
Meet the future of music education

BY ITZEL GIRON
The Prospector

As the 2022 fall convocation nears, many seniors might look back on what made them choose the path they are currently on, how they got there, or what could have changed had things not gone their way. The same goes for graduating music education senior, Eric Esquivel, who not only faced the pandemic during his time at UTEP, but other personal hurdles that can make something you are passionate about seem almost unfathomable.

In early fall of 2019, Esquivel suffered a hand injury that made playing any instrument he enjoyed, such as the snare drum, marimba or drum set, feel impossible without any kind of pain. “I wasn’t having fun playing my instrument. I gradually entered into a distressed mental state,” Esquivel said. “I almost reached my breaking point of possibly reconsidering my major altogether, as I thought my career could be over.”

Now three years later and on the brink of walking the Don Haskin stage, Esquivel has healed but still believes he has not 100 percent recovered. After dealing with his personal injury, Esquivel, like many others, was forced to deal with COVID-19. The pandemic, which took a lot from many, seemed like the worst thing to happen within millions of households.

But for Esquivel, it was the start of perfecting his craft and his new techniques. “I took advantage of this time to truly maximize my education in the UTEP Music Department. I realized the detriment of education online early on, and that the experiences would not be the same had they been at the institution,” Esquivel said. “I made it my mission to take in (every) bit of information that my professors gave me. This positive viewpoint of the pandemic made my musical experiences worthwhile.”

Not only did he use time to become a better percussionist, but also used it to prepare himself to be the teacher he hopes to be. “Band teachers from over the years (like) Ms. Janet Lynch, Ms. Salina Cobos, Mr. Ron Pingo, Mr. Daniel Hunt, and Mr. Matt Fernandez,” Esquivel said. “(Have all) played a significant role in my choice to study music education.”

Finishing his studies in music education meant preparing himself to become a leader and inspiration among other young minds like he once was. It is those teachers throughout his years in school who would be key inspirations for what Esquivel hopes to be. “My plan is to inspire young musicians just how Ms. Janet Lynch and Ms. Cobos did when I was ten years old,” Esquivel said. “These two educators were the ones that planted the seed for (me) one day becoming a music educator.”

More recently, a collegiate inspiration would be UTEP professor, Andy Smith, Ph.D., who has also held a role in shaping the person Esquivel is today. “A dedicated mentor, pedagogue, musician, and performer, Dr. Smith is taking the percussion program at UTEP to new heights, and I am glad I was under his tutelage,” Esquivel said. “Dr. Smith has taught me to be a total percussionist and shown me the true characteristics of professionalism, communication, networking and wit.”

Luckily for Esquivel, those inspirations have allowed him to secure his first step after graduation, accepting his first job offer as the Assistant Band and Percussion Director at Don Haskins K-8. Alongside the countless teachers guiding him, family and close friends have also played a close role in his success.

“I would like to first thank my family for supporting me in my higher education endeavors,” Esquivel said. “(I would also like to) thank the many friends that I have met along my journey, for they have been important in my growth and perseverance through my degree.”

Every student has their own hurdles to overcome, this is one story reminding students that things can get tough and will not always be easy. However, it highlights how taking the smallest things as “wins” leads to a future of success. “Study hard and celebrate each ‘win’ you get,” Esquivel said. “A ‘win’ can be just as simple as getting through a chapter in a textbook and being proud of that.”
Theatre and Dance present ‘Zoot Suit’

BY ALISON RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

The UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance presented their show ‘Zoot Suit’ by Luis Valdez Nov. 17 at the Wise Family Theatre. Tickets are available for $12. For more information, visit events.utep.edu and look up Zoot Suit.

First a UTEP graduate, now emerging Latina artist

BY JOSIE AVILA
The Prospector

Some people graduated alongside her, some know her as a co-worker and some consider her to be one of their favorite artists. Emerging Latina singer-songwriter Adriana Olivas Ureno, also known as Eydrey, juggles a full-time job and her singing/songwriting career since graduating. Photo courtesy of Adriana Olivas Ureno

Adriana Olivas Ureno, also known as Eydrey, juggles a full-time job and her singing/songwriting career since graduating. Photo courtesy of Adriana Olivas Ureno.

I say I can make a living off of music, I’m keeping my job.

Besides the stability provided by her job, she takes pride in it because it has shaped her identity as a versatile individual.

I am responsible (for) who I want to be as an artist, but I am also responsible (for) the professional woman in the work force that I am,” Eydrey said. “Because I am both of those things.”

Eydrey was raised in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, and moved to El Paso, Texas at 16. She obtained her high school diploma from El Paso High School and then continued her education at UTEP, where she majored in marketing and minored in information systems. Throughout college, Eydrey managed to find the motivation and time to work on her music outside of school. It began when she posted her first video singing a cover on YouTube. Music has always been within reach for Eydrey.

When I was little, my dad would be singing, I would go to sleep, and he would sing me to sleep,” Eydrey said. “So, I grew up in that environment. And when I was three or four, I started asking my parents for a little brother through a song. My parents say that was the first song I ever wrote.

When the day to graduate college arrived, I was extra income and free time to focus to her music. When the day to graduate college arrived, I was extra income and free time to focus on my art. On her graduation weekend, she posted a TikTok video saying, “Things I did this weekend: graduated and released this song.”

The world is scary only if you let yourself be afraid,” Eydrey said. “It’s okay to be scared and accept those feelings but the world needs a lot of artistic people. Do not let anyone tell you that you cannot do both.

You can find Eydrey’s music on all streaming services. She focuses on bilingual Latin-Urban music. She considers her music a representation of her identity as a bilingual and bicultural Latina. Eydrey would like to thank her family, Denise Olivas from the UTEP College of Business Administration, and her former coworkers from the Business Information Systems advising center for supporting and pouting for her.

Alyson Rodriguez is a staff reporter and may be reached on her artistic career. Through college, Eydrey would like to thank her family, Denise Olivas from the UTEP College of Business Administration, and her former coworkers from the Business Information Systems advising center for supporting and pouting for her.

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Learn the story behind the cap

BY MARIA L. GUERRERO DURAN
The Prospector

As graduates line up to enter the venue, shaky hands, nerves and pounding hearts fill the chairs and walk up the stage. The colorful regalia decorating the shoulders of students symbolizing their accomplishments over the last few years becomes a staple piece for the commemoration of the moment.

The end of their college career symbolizes a milestone for graduates who have overcome moments of stress, self-doubt and maybe even existential crises. For so many, commencement is the opportunity to share with their family and friends the path they went through while in college, hence why the decoration of graduation caps became a widely celebrated tradition.

Whether it be to mock their emotional situation, ask for jobs or share a sweet message with their loved ones, decorating graduation caps gives the opportunity for graduates to be thoughtful and express themselves one last time.

Lourdes Jimenez, a recent graduate with a bachelor of science in biochemistry, shared how she wanted to commemorate her journey finally coming to an end. “I wanted to make a tribute to the sacrifices made by me and my loved ones so I could be walking that stage, which is why I chose the Santa Fe bridge with the U.S. and Mexico flags as a scenario,” Jimenez said. “It was a particularly marking moment in my career when I had to commute biking and it set a before and after in me as a person, as it helped me show myself what I was willing to do to pursue my degree.” Jimenez’ cap features her riding her bicycle to cross the border. UTEP is on one side with the Lone Star on the back and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico on the other, with some landmarks of the city. Not only does her cap portray the sister cities, but also a sunrise sky on the back, representing the characteristic hues of the desert.

“The end result was a beautiful and gorgeous piece of work that made my parents and I very emotional and proud to look back and see how far we had come,” Jimenez said. “It is a token that I will treasure deeply for years.”

Graduate Lourdes Jimenez decorates her cap to symbolize her journey commuting to and from her campus, and her dedication to earn her degree. Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

Jenny Cantu, a May graduate with a bachelor of business in marketing, walked the stage with a painting of her family and pets. It included the quote “Gracias a mi equipo favorito,” a reference to her being a soccer player. “I wanted to honor my family efforts and let them know that they are the most important thing for me,” Cantu said. “Being between two different cities, cultures, ideas and languages is not easy, but having your family supporting you helps you to go through everything easier.”

The sentiment behind the art and creativity the students put into decorating their graduation caps summarizes the struggles, sacrifices and joys of college, it also shares with the rest of the attendees a piece of history that can later be revisited by the graduates.

Congratulations to the fall 2022 graduates. Go Miners!

Maria L. Guerrero Duran is the web and copy editor and may be reached at mlguerrerod@miners.utep.edu; @bymariaguerrero on Instagram and Twitter.

CONGRATULATIONS

MICHAEL RUIZ
Junior, Electrical Engineering

Texas Western Gold Rush 2022

Winner of The Prospector’s Fall Photo Contest Theme: Favorite Fall Semester Memory
Flowers bloom for future grads

BY MEAGAN GARCIA
The Prospector

With the fall commencement right around the corner, businesses are booming for people across the Sun City. If you have ever been to a high school or college graduation ceremony, you know that there are carts set up at every corner around the venue so that people can pick up something special for their cherished graduate. While this can range from teddy bears or misting mini grad caps to individual roses to celebratory aluminum balloons, there are always quick items to grab before heading into the ceremonies. While the restaurant gets busy over the weekends, famous for its steak, this restaurant also has options of seafood as well. If you are looking for a restaurant with scented views, a ranch with animals you can visit and feed, make sure to visit that restaurant for your graduation celebration.

Anson 11
Located in one of the most iconic buildings in El Paso, Anson 11 has established itself as one of El Paso’s best restaurants. On the bottom floors of the Anson Mills Building, the restaurant is complete with a bar, outside seating, and a second floor, each of which overlooks San Jacinto Plaza right across the street. The restaurant has two sides, a bar side, which is the bottom floor of the restaurant, and a side dedicated to fine dining experience, which takes up the second floor of the restaurant. Whether you are looking to celebrate in a casual setting or an upscale environment, Anson 11 is another great local restaurant to go to.

State Line
Another entry on this list that offers great West Texas barbecue in a wild west setting is State Line. Located at Sundial Park, on the boundary separating Texas and New Mexico, State Line is a great example of old-fashioned food in the Borderland. Formed by a group of Texans who admired Austin-style barbeque, the restaurant chain to which it belongs to, The County Line Barbecue, opened in 1975. It still is a major hit in Texas and New Mexico. With locations sprawled across the states, State Line in El Paso is one place love to go to.

Flower shops get especially busy this time of year and are a great gift for a special graduate. Photo by SalmaPaola Baca/The Prospector

With outdoor seating, an old-fashioned looking bar, and dining rooms inside, this spot is perfect for a graduation celebration. With a menu that goes from baby back ribs to savory sausage links, get ready to eat your fair-share of Texas barbecue when you come to this western themed restaurant.

L & J Café
One of the oldest restaurants in El Paso, L & J Café, or The Old Place by The Greyard, is an icon of the city’s food culture. Established in 1927 under the name “Tony’s Place,” this family-kept restaurant is still operating today, offering delicious home-cooked Mexican food. Their menu is filled with the community’s familiar favorites, not just Tex-Mex food. Chile rellenos and enchiladas plates are just a few of the various options that L & J’s offers, making it a great place to go out with your loved ones to enjoy a celebration. If you want some drinks, the restaurant also has a bar where you can order local favorites.

Café Central
Arguably the most luxurious restaurant destination in all of El Paso, Café Central is continuing a legacy that began in 1918. It is one of the oldest continually operated restaurants in the region, this downtown spot has made a mark, getting mentions in The New York Times and Travel + Leisure. The restaurant offers private dining, so people can come together with their own experience. With a brunch, lunch and dinner menu, Café Central has a variety of high-end foods for people to try and enjoy. From escargot to lamb for dinner, or crime bottles to tres leches for dessert, Café Central has long established itself as an unforgettable dining experience for all to share. El Paso has a wide range of restaurants for graduates and their loved ones to celebrate the occasion depending on everyone’s price range and favorite food style.
Senior Spotlight: James Tupou

By Katrina Villarreal

James Tupou is a fullback who received his bachelor’s in kinesiology and is working on his master’s in leadership studies. Photo by Alberto Silva Fernandez / The Prospector

James Tupou is a fullback who received his undergraduate degree in kinesiology and is on his way to completing his graduate degree in leadership studies.

Once he graduates, Tupou is looking to become a strength coach or a personal trainer.

Tupou is originally from Allen, Texas and has been playing football since he was eight years old; he has loved playing ever since.

Tupou explains that both his family and teammates play a big part in his love for the game of football.

“My dad put it upon (my brother and I), so we got hooked on it from him,” Tupou said.

Being able to cheer on his teammates is something that Tupou loves about playing football. Tupou explains that seeing everyone happy, whether it is him or one of his teammates making a play, is what is genuinely enjoyable.

“Football is supposed to be fun,” Tupou said. “We got to make sure it should be competitive, but at the end of the day it’s still a game.”

During his career at Allen High School, Tupou originally played on the defense. Tupou was on the school’s varsity squad where he earned All-District 6-6A First Team Defense and received Associated Press Sports Editors (APSE) Class 6A All-State Honorable Mention.

During the 2019 season, his sophomore year, Tupou began to see action at the fullback position.

Tupou recently recorded his first touchdown as a Miner in the game against Rice University. Thursday, Nov. 3, making this his favorite catch as a UTEP Miner.

“Big, historic mark,” Tupou said. “It took a long time, but you know (I had) patience and it was finally rewarded, so I appreciate that.”

Tupou’s inspiration to take the field is his father and sibling, especially his brother who, he explains, has fought through adversity all along his interesting journey.

Tupou said that he and his brother have had conversations about not playing football anymore. They both decided to push through. (“(Tupou’s brother) still bounced back and battled, and he’s actually played one of his, probably his best, years of college football this year,” Tupou said.

“I’ve never been so proud of him as a younger brother.”

To motivate himself on the off days, Tupou takes a note from UTEP football Head Coach Dana Dimel. Tupou explains that sometimes you have to fake the hype and once you are into it, positive energy and motivation makes its way through the entire team.

“You just start to feel like ‘I’m into this now, my teammates are into it,’” Tupou said. “Positive energy starts getting spread around and you just start to get hooked on it too, it just starts bouncing off.”

Being a part of the UTEP football team has meant everything to Tupou. He explains that he and the team have been through a lot of adversity during his time at UTEP.

From going 0-12, to 1-11, to 3-5, to finally finding success last season when the program finished 7-6 and played in a bowl game for the first time since 2014.

When he graduates, Tupou hopes to leave the legacy of being known as a hard worker by his teammates.

“Going through the hardship of all those years, I feel has built a lot of character,” Tupou said. “All the hard times has really made me the person I am today.”

One thing Tupou will miss about UTEP when he graduates with his graduate degree is going to be his teammates. Tupou explains that he has been able to build a close relationship with them.

“I probably went through a lot of, I guess people that either transferred or left, or just hung their cleats up,” Tupou said. “There are also people that I’ve never met in my entire life from different parts of the country and I end up being best friends with them.”

High school statistics for James Tupou courtesy of UTEP Athletics, and utepminers.com.

James Tupou is a fullback who received his bachelor’s in kinesiology and is working on his master’s in leadership studies. Photo by Alberto Silva Fernandez / The Prospector.

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Veteran senior thrives at UTEP

As the volleyball season comes to an end, senior outside hitter and middle blocker Alianza Darley contains what her next step will be. The Robertson High School graduate is eligible to play for the upcoming 2023 season, but that has not stopped Darley from thinking about her life outside of UTEP.

Sports run deep in Darley’s family. Her brother James played basketball and baseball at New Mexico Highlands University, her stepfather played basketball at San Diego State University and her grandmother played college basketball and played in the National Basketball Association (NBA).

Darley has several academic accolades from Conference USA such as All-Conference Second Team, the Commissioner’s Academic Honor Roll, and received the Commissioner’s Academic Medal in 2019, 2020 and 2021. Darley’s academic success did not just sprout in college but comes from years of academic successes.

“I mean, it’s pretty easy because I know that if I don’t do my good in school, I’m not going to be able to perform on the court,” Darley said. “It’s like a healthy balance for me and it helps me.”

The New Mexico native was recruited to play not just volleyball, but basketball as well. Darley mostly played basketball during high school while rapidly becoming a strong leader among her peers and teammates.

In an interview with the Albuquerque Journal, Robertson coach José Medina praised Darley’s leadership as a ‘type of athlete. ‘She’s a good role model,’ Medina said. ‘She leads by example, works hard every day; is good to her teammates and motivates and pumps her teammates up. She pushes them to work at the next level.’”

“I wouldn’t say I was a leader on my freshmen or sophomore year,” Darley said. “But I think being able to help lead this team has been one of the best things of the program is so successful. It is because all of us have put in a lot of time into creating a great culture here.”

Before her exemplary run with the UTEP volleyball team, Darley experienced some uncertainty about what sport to play in college.

“Tat was a hard decision,” Darley said. “Tat is the type of field like that. Tat is the type of field like that. Tat is not to say the soon to be undecided as to what to do after this years full commitment, mirroring Darley’s uncertainty when deciding what sport to play out of high school for college. Right now I can say I never forget.”

The Miners volleyball team lost that game 3-1 in dramatic fashion.

UNLV defeated Valparaiso University in the following round to become champions for the 2021 NIVC Championship.

This year, the Miners qualified for the C-USA Championship. The No. 3 seed and faced the Charlotte 49ers at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18 at E.A. Diddle Arena in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

There, the Miners lost to the No. 2 Rice in the semifinals in a shut-out after beating the University of Charlotte in a shut out of its own. Looking forward, Darley is still undecided as to what to do after this years full commitment, mirroring Darley’s uncertainty when deciding what sport to play out of high school for college.

“She’s a good role model” Medina praised Darley’s leadership as a ‘type of athlete. ‘She’s a good role model,’ Medina said. ‘She leads by example, works hard every day; is good to her teammates and motivates and pumps her teammates up. She pushes them to work at the next level.’”

“I haven’t really thought much of it,” Darley said. “I want to become either an occupational therapist or a type of field like that. That is the path I would like no matter how much we change in a couple of months.”

Statistics provided by UTEP Athletics and utepminers.com.

Women split ‘2022 Holiday Beach Classic’

By Katrina Villarreal

The Prospector

UTEP women’s basketball’s (5-1) 3rd trip to San Luis Obispo, California for the Holiday Beach Classic series during the Thanksgiving break. UTEP’s win was against the San Jose State (2-4) Spartans, Nov. 25 and the Sacramento State Hornets (5-1), Nov. 26. UTEP won the game against the Spartans with a final score of 67-54 but failed to reach Sacramento State 63-50.

In the win against San Jose State, Jose Joel led the Miners in an 11-0 start. Senior guard Jada Holland led the Spartans with 20 points. Nearing the end of the first half, the Miners were able to take the lead for the first time in the game after a layup by senior guard Avery Canady. UTEP kept its momentum going with a 7-0 run. At halftime the score was 29-26.

In the second half the Miners were able to keep their momentum going 53-51, but after a free throw by sophomore forward Adiall Tac and a rebound by Cousins, the Miners were able to take the lead back, 42-39. San Jose regained the lead by going on a 10-0 run in the third quarter. With seven minutes to go in the fourth quarter UTEP finished with a 16-0 run to close out the game.

After missing the last three games due to an ankle injury, Elina Arike recorded 13 points and five rebounds. Junior guard N’Yah Boyd finished with 10 points, while Cousins finished with 10 points.

Junior guard Jazion Jackson secured a season-high 18 points, with seven rebounds and three steals. The win against San Jose State marked the 200th win for Head Coach Kevin Baker in his collegiate career.

“Today we learned to play through adversity, and I’m very proud of our team for that,” said Baker in a post-game interview. “Our team has always been good at the end of a bad start. We hit some key shots and made some big plays to get some separation late in the fourth.”

In the first quarter, both teams were able to put points on the board with an 8-7 lead by Sacramento State with 12 points, while Cousins finished with 10 points. Sacramento State finished its lead to 27-14. The Miners were able to close the gap to 27-14 after scoring 10 straight points.

During the second half, both teams continued to exchange points with UTEP staying within five points of Sacramento State. The fourth quarter was all Sacramento State as the Hornets outscored the Miners 20-12 after shooting 50 percent from the floor.

The Miners will now have to take on New Mexico State University for the Battle of 1-10 at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 30 at the Pan American Center in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

After sweeping at the Jim Forbes Classic, the Miners have won five straight and have not lost a game at the Don Haskins Center.

Statistics provided by UTEP Athletics and utepminers.com.
Top NFL Fantasy Football picks for the final stretch

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL
The Prospector

Editor’s note: This is the third of a three-part series on Fantasy Football.

As we enter week 13 of Fantasy Football, here are my final suggestions on who to put on your team.

Quarterback

Kicking it off for the top fantasy options is the Buffalo Bills’ Josh Allen. Allen has been the number one option for the quarterback position all season. Allen continues to score points for fantasy teams by averaging 25.2 points per game. Against the Lions, Allen had 253 passing yards and 78 rushing yards. Allen is rostered at 99.9 percent and has only struggled once this season and continues to be a top option for most fantasy teams.

Running Back

The Los Angeles Chargers’ Austin Ekeler has had an amazing fantasy season so far. Ekeler has only struggled once this season and is currently averaging 22.3 points per game. In the game against the Arizona Cardinals, Ekeler had 11 receptions for 80 yards and a touchdown. Ekeler is currently rostered at 99.9 percent and is ranked number one in running backs. Although Ekeler is not leading the league in rushing yards, he does put up big points.

Wide Receiver

The Bills’ Stefon Diggs has dominated at the wide receiver position in fantasy. Diggs has struggled twice this season and is currently averaging 22.6 points per game. It was a bit of a slow start for Diggs against the Lions, but he finished the game catching eight of 15 passes for 77 yards and a touchdown. Diggs is rostered at 99.9 percent and he continues to show why he is a great pick for the wide receiver position.

Tight end

At the tight end position, we have the Kansas City Chiefs’ Travis Kelce. Kelce has not struggled once this year and is currently rostered at 99.9 percent. Kelce dominates the tight ends in points by averaging 22.3 points per game. Kelce recently broke a tie he had with former tight end Rob Gronkowski for the most 100-yard games in league history. As the season continues, Kelce has proven to be the number one tight end option this season.

Flex

Any player mentioned can be a flex, except Allen and Kelce, but another good option for the position is Green Bay Packers running back Aaron Jones who is averaging 15.7 points per game and has a roster percentage of 99.2.

Defense and Special Teams

For defense, the 49ers defense and special teams are the way to go as they continue to dominate. They are currently averaging 8.8 points per game and are rostered at 85.9 percent.

Kickers

Lastly, there is one kicker who has been consistent all season. Baltimore Ravens kicker Justin Tucker has been averaging 9.7 points per game and has a roster percentage of 99.3. Tucker has not struggled so far this season.

All stars courtesy of ESPN.

BY EMMANUEL RIVAS VALENCEZUA
The Prospector

The UTEP Miners’ football team defeated the FIU Golden Panthers 40-25 for a much-needed win to the community of El Paso afer defeating the New Mexico State Aggies 20-13 Saturday, Sept. 10 at the Sun Bowl.

In a game where the Miners were heavy underdogs, head coach Dana Dimel rallied his team to a 27-10 upset at home against Boise State.

A week after losing 42-27 to the University of Houston, Dimel and the Miners answered their critics who questioned their ability to get a win.

The Miners had to beat the FIU Golden Panthers to secure the Miner victory.

The Miners had to beat the FIU Golden Panthers to secure the Miner victory.

nder Back

The Miners’ leading offensive player was Running Back Reynaldo Flores noted 276 rushing yards and 199 yards for two touchdowns and two interceptions, while rushing for 189 yards for two touchdowns and two interceptions, while rushing for 189 yards.

Sophomore wide receiver Jacob Cowan kicked a 28-yard field goal to put the Miners up 34-31. This is the first time in UTEP history that the Miners had wide receivers go over 1,000 yards in back-to-back seasons.

On defense, senior defensive end Jadrian Taylor led the Miners with 9.5 sacks this season. Junior linebacker Cal Wurstein and junior linebacker Tyrice Knight tied for the lead with 9.5 sacks this season. The defense allowed a total of 4,250 all-purpose yards.

Senior kicker Gavin Bacchle completed 27 of 24 field goal attempts. Bacchle did not miss a single point after attempting to score 97 points for the Miners in 2021. Statistics provided by UTEP Athletics and upsportsminers.com.

Top: The Miners’ football team defeated Boise State University 27-10, Sept. 23 at the Sun Bowl.

Bottom: Kicker Gavin Bacchle celebrates with his team after kicking the game-winning field goal against FAU on Oct. 22.

Photos by Alberto Silva Fernande/ The Prospector

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Paving out the playoff picture after week 12

BY EMILY AUTUMN VELASQUEZ
The Prospector

Editor’s note: This is the third of a three-part series on the NFL standings.

The National Football League season consists of 18 weeks of tough football, upssets and intense games. We are officially two thirds of the way through the season and the playoff picture is starting to become clearer with each passing day. Let us discuss who is shaping up to make waves this postseason.

Sitting at No. 1 in the American Football Conference (AFC) are the Kansas City Chiefs at 9-2. It should be no surprise that the Chiefs are playoff contenders yet again with Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce putting up record breaking numbers. While the Chiefs have a powerhouse offense, their defense has been inconsistent and lackluster. The defense has yet to find the rhythm they had last year as they made a Super Bowl run, however, injuries are proving to be a problem for them. Lastly, at No. 7 are the New York Jets at 7-4. The Jets’ success is a shock to most, but they are playing well week in and week out. This has allowed them to win games and beat some of the best teams currently playing.

Sitting at No. 2 are the Miami Dolphins at 8-3. The Dolphins faced some struggles early in the season due to injuries, but they have gotten back into their groove as of late and are on a five-game winning streak. Since acquiring Head Coach Mike McDaniels, the Dolphins have found a spark they lacked in previous seasons. Last week, they defeated the Denver Broncos in Glendale, Arizona.

The National Football Conference (NFC) is full of tough teams who are playof contenders yet again. One such team is the San Francisco 49ers at 7-4. The 49ers are one of the hottest teams in the NFC right now as they are basically guaranteed a playoff spot, the only thing that can change is their seeding. However, after a brutal 40-3 loss to the Cowboys in week 11, many are wondering if there are holes to be discovered in this “stellar” team.

Sitting in the No. 3 seed are the Philadelphia Eagles at 10-1. The Eagles have been a dominant team all season as quarterback Jalen Hurts has found a rhythm with his receivers and running backs and is putting up record breaking numbers, while also having a solid defense that is forcing takeaways and making key plays in crucial moments throughout the season.

Sitting in the No. 2 seed are the Minnesota Vikings at 9-2. Quarterback Kirk Cousins and wide receiver Justin Jefferson have established a real connection this season and it has allowed them to find success. They have a massive lead in their division as the team in second, the Detroit Lions, are currently sitting at 4-7. Due to how poorly the rest of their division is performing, they are basically guaranteed a playoff spot, the only difference is who they will face in the first round.

Sitting in the No. 5 seed are the Buffalo Bills at 8-3. They are currently taking on one of the wild card spots. However, they maintain the same record as the Dolphins so things could possibly shift as the season wraps up. Sitting at No. 6 are the Cincinnati Bengals at 7-4, who are finding the rhythm they had last year as they made a Super Bowl run, however, injuries are proving to be a problem for them. Lastly, at No. 7 are the Minnesota Vikings at 9-2. Quarterback Kirk Cousins and wide receiver Justin Jefferson have established a real connection this season and it has allowed them to find success. They have a massive lead in their division as the team in second, the Detroit Lions, are currently sitting at 4-7. Due to how poorly the rest of their division is performing, they are basically guaranteed a playoff spot, the only difference is who they will face in the first round.

Sitting at No. 3 are the Tennessee Titans at 7-4. The Titans are back in action after starting the season 0-2. Since then, they have won seven of their last nine games. Running back Derrick Henry continues to be a threat to defenses across the league and quarterback Ryan Tannehill is starting to build chemistry with his receivers.

Sitting at No. 4 are the Baltimore Ravens at 7-4. While they are a solid team to watch out for with players like Lamar Jackson and Justin Tucker.

It is a tight division race as the Bengals are currently second in the division at 7-4, so the playoff picture might shift as the season wraps up.

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Teams that are looking into securing a last minute Wild Card spot in the AFC are the New England Patriots and the Los Angeles Chargers at 6-5. Both teams have lost some close games, which resulted in them falling down the list.

The National Football Conference (NFC) is full of tough teams who are finding a rhythm in the second half of the season. Leading fans to wonder which of these teams can stay healthy and powerful enough to make a Super Bowl run. Sitting at No. 1 in the NFC are the Philadelphia Eagles at 10-1. The Eagles have been a dominant team all season as quarterback Jalen Hurts has found a rhythm with his receivers and running backs and is putting up record breaking numbers, while also having a solid defense that is forcing takeaways and making key plays in crucial moments throughout the season.

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Sitting in the No. 5 seed are the Buffalo Bills at 8-3. The Cowboys seem to have found their rhythm again after the return of quarterback Dak Prescott, however their division is a tough one as the New York Giants sit in the No. 6 seed at 7-4 and the Washington Commanders sit in the No. 7 seed at 7-5. It is a tough division, which is obvious with the way the entire division is currently in playoffs.

Teams that are looking into securing a last minute Wild Card spot in the NFC are the Seattle Seahawks at 6-5 and the Atlanta Falcons. I am going to stick with my initial preseason prediction for Super Bowl LVII and say it will be between the Buffalo Bills and the San Francisco 49ers facing off in Glendale, Arizona.

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Congratulations Class of 2022!