Welcome Home

BY ADAM MARTÍNEZ
The Prospector

For more than four decades, health sciences and nursing students have had to go off the UTEP campus to get to their class, but now they are finally back home.

After two and a half years of planning and construction, the College of Health Sciences building opens for this semester. A grand opening ceremony is slated for Sept. 29 with events planned all day. The new building, which is located between Sun Bowl Drive and University Library, houses both the College of Health Sciences and the School of Nursing.

The School of Nursing and College of Health Sciences have been located off-campus at the Campbell Building since the 1970s. Both colleges have grown over the years and the new building is meant to meet the needs of the students and faculty, as well as help UTEP reach tier-one status.

Kathleen Curtis, dean of the College of Health Sciences, said one of the main reasons to build a new college on campus was so health sciences and nursing students could take most of their classes at UTEP instead of moving back and forth from the Campbell Building to the main campus.

"For the first time, our undergraduate students will be able to have all their classes on the main campus," Curtis said. "In addition, it makes it much easier for our faculty to collaborate in research and in campus activities."

Cynthia Chácon, senior health promotion major, said the new building is more than well-located, it also provides opportunity for students and faculty to build stronger relationships.

"It's a lot more convenient because I don't have to drive all the way to the old building," Chácon said. "It's a great space for student-teacher interaction."

According to Curtis, five programs of the College of Health Sciences, including the departments of social work, public health sciences and kinesiology and all programs in the School of Nursing, will be housed in the new college.

"In addition, it makes good decisions, " Price said. "He throws a crisp ball, an accurate ball, he takes care of the football and makes good decisions," Price said. "Those are the main reasons why Nick is the guy... and that's the kind of quarterback we want out there."

"The only difference to me is the warm-up in the Sun Bowl Aug. 20, Lamaison showed his development. Four days after he was officially named the starter for the season opener, Lamaison performed with the first team throughout the spring workouts in April and Camp Socorro Aug. 6-14. He was given the nod to start after the team's final scrimmage of camp where he showed improvement from his last major start at the Spring Game April 30.

"I like the decision. Ever since he got here, he would come to me and we would run plays, running the playbook," senior wide receiver Donovan Kemp said. "He's a really smart guy, really hard worker so I'm really comfortable with him."

At the game, Lamaison went 8-for-18 with 92 yards and no scores. Just under four months later, he showed his progress during the last Saturday of camp in the team scrimmage where he started again going 12-for-20 with 112 yards and one touchdown.

Even in his most recent outing, at the team's first scrimmage of the summer in the Sun Bowl Aug. 20, Lamaison showed his development. Four days after he was officially named the starter for the season opener, Lamaison finished 9-of-15 for 118 yards including a 40-yard touchdown pass to junior Lavorick Williams.

"The only difference to me is the approach. I have to start looking forward to games and not to practices. So I have to do different things like getting signals from the coaches and getting the plays," Lamaison said. "Those are things that I'm more focused on right now since I'm the starter."
As we begin the fall semester, The Prospector staff is looking forward to carrying on the tradition of excellence that this newspaper has achieved in its nearly 100 years at UTEP. When you pick up the newspaper every Tuesday and Thursday, you will get the latest breaking and critical news affecting the student body, along with sporting events and other entertainment stories.

As the voice of the students, the heartbeat of our news coverage will range from covering crime on campus, political controversies and other problems plaguing students. We'll even include events happening in Austin that will affect the UTEP community. Hard news, in-depth investigative stories to light-hearted features, we will cover it.

The entertainment section will offer a fresh new guide for its readers. In between studying, exams and extracurricular activities, The Prospector will guide students to entertainment events, such as music, concerts, movie reviews as well as video game reviews.

With a new writers in our staff, The Prospector team is confident it will meet students’ demands in what they want to read. The Prospector also will offer the latest fashion trends for the season. Get the latest word on which restaurants are good for students’ budget and find out about the trendy, local places. We will also feature student profiles. The entertainment section is launching a weekly column called “Love in the time of college,” which will feature different columns focusing on love and relationships. This semester, the entertainment section is encouraging students to submit any story ideas for events, student profiles, and whatever else students think would be entertaining to read. Definitely The Prospector will take those ideas, questions, and concerns into consideration.

With a new school year just beginning, the sports department at the Prospector will be experiencing a fresh look, as well.

With four brand-new writers in the sports department, each one brings in a different style of writing that generates the fall 2011 Prospector.

In addition to getting perspectives from UTEP coaches and players, The Prospector will also attempt to become a number-one news outlet for Miner sports with breaking news and original features. While the experience is one of the greatest appeals to college students, the professionalism and long-lived reputation is what The Prospector wishes to achieve with its readers and athletic department.

Finally, the sports department hopes to answer every question a Miner may have regarding UTEP’s athletics. From the question of whether this will be head coach Mike Price’s last season with the football team to how softball can rebound from one of their worst seasons, The Prospector will become your go-to source for everything UTEP Miners and more.

We look forward to hearing from you and expect this to be a fun, exciting semester filled with all kinds of news.

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PRESENT VIP BASH AUGUST 30TH

LADIES COME GET YOUR FREE VIP CARDS THAT NIGHT. GET THAT SPECIAL TREATMENT.

DOORS OPEN: 7 PM
Free complimentary food
Dress to impress

2720 N. Mesa Street | (915) 694-5330
Question of the week

What are your expectations for the semester?

JENNIFER MERCADO
sophomore mathematics
“I expect from this semester for my classes to be easy and to enjoy the Miner environment.”

VIANNETTE FELIX
freshman mathematics
“My expectations for this semester are to have fun and enjoy the beginning of my college career.”

LUIS CRUZ
freshman education
“I hope to keep my grades up and get involved in campus. I’d also like to join a photography class or club.”

VIRIDIANA FELIX
freshman mathematics
“My expectations for this semester are to enjoy my first year of college and get the best out of everything I do.”

ROSALUAR CHAPINA
freshman forensic science
“My expectation for this upcoming semester is to learn and to discover what I can do as a student and of course enjoy it.”

STEVE REYES
senior digital media production
“Graduate and have fun!!”

MALCOM MOORE
junior general studies
“Good college environment and fun.”

ANGEL ORTIZ
freshman business
“Educate myself on business.”

ERICKA TRUJILLO
freshman forensic science
“Even though this is my first year here, I already want to graduate. I hope to be on top of all my classes.”

LYNDA OBANDO
junior nursing
“I expect to have fun and get really good grades along the way.”

JERRY MOSS
sophomore electrical engineer
“Hard classes, high expectations and a fun semester.”

SARAI ROMERO
freshman marketing
“Finish classes with good grades and meet new people.”

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Students seek cheaper textbooks

BY ANOUSHKA VALODYA

It’s that time again, the time for students to shell out money for textbooks. Although the University Bookstore has implemented cheaper options for purchasing books, students still feel prices are too high.

“I paid $476 for seven books, three of them are used and two of them are rented,” said Robina Pusada, freshman nursing major. “I think that’s pretty dumb. I expected to spend $200.”

Besides offering used and rentable books, the bookstore also launched Café Scribe during the summer session. It is the bookstore’s newest option for students to save money, allowing for more than 50 percent in savings by using the e-book format.

In the bookstore, e-books are represented with a small blue paper, next to the textbook information/pricing card. Students rip off a blue card and present it to the cashier. The used prices are reasonable,” she said. “The new editions are way too pricey.”

“I prefer to use actual books because computer screens hurt my eyes,” said Irma Vasquez, junior business major. She said that she paid $470 for five classes, but she would have liked to pay around $250.

An example of the bookstore’s pricing option is as follows: the book for English 1311 costs $68.50 new, $51.50 used, $34.22 for rent and $20 in the e-book format.

Fernando Padula, director of the bookstore, said that the e-books from Café Scribe are compatible with PCs and Macs and do not require a special reading tablet like Nook or Kindle. He added that it’s not necessary to download the e-book onto your computer. Currently, about 20 percent of the textbooks in the bookstore are offered through Café Scribe.

Padula said that last year, 30 percent of the store’s textbooks were rented. Now, he said, that number has increased to 49 percent.

Esmeralda Zazueta, sophomore prelegal science major, said she rented a book during the summer for $40.

“I still think it’s expensive, and to just use it for two months? I can buy a used book for that same amount in another bookstore and possibly save more money,” she said.

Padula said that the reason why a lot of books are not available in used form is because the store has been getting a lot of new and custom-edition textbooks, as well as unbound, loose-leafed documents and textbooks with access codes.

“Textbooks can cost $100, but with the access code, that price jumps up to $180,” Padula said. “So we try to avoid these kinds of costly books that can’t be sold in used form, but we have to coordinate with professors, who decide what to use in their classes.”

Linda Hayes, sophomore nursing major, said she’s trying to buy all her required textbooks in used form.

“There are ways to help pay for college, invest money, manage credit and tips on how to survive on a small budget,” said Armando Meza, senior accounting major who is a mentor in the program. “When the economic crisis hit, a lot of people did not know or just didn’t manage their money right. So this program helps young adults learn about finance matters, helps them learn to manage their money and helps start off their financial lives on the right foot.”

The website features tips on various ways to help pay for college, invest money, manage credit and tips on how to survive on a small budget.

“On the website we have different areas that include financial planning, saving and investments, spending on a budget, managing credit, how to pay for college and a lot of resources on financial information,” said Caro-lina Teran, graduate business administration student and Money Matters coordinator. “Also, we have quizzes, games, financial terms dictionary, workshops, a parent’s section and a Spanish section.”

According to a survey conducted by the UTEP Center for Institutional Evaluation, Research and Planning, 34.5 percent of students who did not re-enroll after their first semester cited financial reasons. The Money Matters’ main goal is to help prevent students from suffering financial stress throughout their time in college.

The University Bookstore also has a Money Matters section in its website, managed by students to help fellow students deal with the stress of the financial burden throughout their time in college.

This a UTEP initiative that focuses on teaching students finance,” said Armando Meza, senior accounting major who is a mentor in the program. “When the economic crisis hit, a lot of people did not know or just didn’t manage their money right. So this program helps young adults learn about finance matters, helps them learn to manage their money and helps start off their financial lives on the right foot.”

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our view
Diana Amaro, 747-7446

Students return for fall 2011

every fall, the university career center brings to campus over 150 employers to the biggest career fair of the year. students of all majors have the opportunity to find jobs and internships. if you’re looking to move forward in your career, prepare yourself...

come to career expo 2011... and plan to meet informally with employers at the student/employer reception

thursday, september 22
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

friday, september 23
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

career expo
september 22-23, 2011

university career center
Un programa de capacitación ofrece a los estudiantes internacionales la posibilidad de entrenarse en Estados Unidos por un año con un permiso especial de trabajo.
E-readers: revolutionizing literacy

BY JERRY ALDAZ
The Prospector

As technology has revolutionized the way we communicate, interact and access information, the emerging popularity of e-readers will soon reform our approach to literature. Features such as high-capacity storage and light-weight designs make e-readers the perfect alternative for space-consuming and often-outdated print material. Available through numerous companies, including Sony and the lesser-known Kobo, popular devices such as Amazon’s Kindle and Barnes & Noble’s Nook have successfully streamlined e-book technology.

While most e-readers are found within the $100 to $200 spectrum, Kindle base model starting at $114 and Nook at $139 (exception being Nook Color at $249), their prolonged battery life (ranging from one week to a month), visually-comfortable display and aesthetically-simplistic industrial design allow these devices closely emulate the approachability of their physical counterparts. So are the relatively expensive startup costs worth it? Some researchers believe so. According to a study of 1,200 individuals conducted by Marketing and Research Resources Inc., 40 percent of participants read more than they did with physical books.

“I really enjoy owning a Kindle because of how organized it makes me feel. I still love print books too, but I think the Kindle definitely has its advantages. Being able to highlight certain sections of the text and notes relating to bookmarks is extremely useful,” said Sarah Walker, avid reader and junior English literature major. “It really is worth the cost if you are a reader, especially a student. The cost of books is cheaper and you have access to many free books as well.”

Catalyzing on the expansion of digital literacy, non-profit organizations such as project Gutenberg (www.gutenberg.org) provide e-reader owners with the ability to freely download any of its 36,000 public domain books.

Free content aside, a decrease in production costs for digital versions of popular books and an increasing availability of digitalized college textbooks are transforming e-readers into a tempting alternative for many current and college-bound students.

“I've seen them around and I'm tempted to buy one,” said Nubia Alejandra Puga, junior Spanish major. “They seem quite responsive and their size makes them the perfect accessory to take anywhere. It is nice realizing that I could read while in the doctor's office or while waiting for the Miner shuttle to arrive. I have the ability to expand my knowledge without needing to add extra pounds to my backpack.”

Current owners of higher-end smartphones and tablets ought not to feel abandoned. Beyond function-specific devices, major participants offer literary material through free app-based incarnations located in the App-Store and the Android Market.

Although there is no denying the skyrocketing popularity of both electronic books and dedicated e-readers, at the end of the day, literary mediums boil down to personal preference.

Jerry Aldaz may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

SAVE THE DATE

Aug. 23-25
Late registration continues

Aug. 26
Tuition payment deadline for students who registered during the first week of classes

Sept. 5
Labor Day - University closed

Sept. 7
Census Day

Sept. 16
Last day to select Pass/Fail Option

Sept. 30
$30.00 Graduation application deadline - (after this date $45.00 fee)

Oct. 12
Freshmen mid-term grades due to the Records Office

Oct. 28
Mid-term grades e-mailed to freshmen via UTEP e-mail address

Nov. 11
Deadline to submit candidates’ names for the commencement program (Name will appear in the commencement program)

Nov. 24-25
Thanksgiving Holiday - University closed

Dec. 1
Last day of classes and complete withdrawal from the University

Dec. 2
Dead Day

Dec. 5-9
Final exams

Dec. 9
Last day to accept late graduation applications

(Name will not appear in the commencement program)

Dec. 10
Commencement

Dec. 14
Final grades due to the Records Office

Dec. 16
Deadline for graduate degree candidates to submit electronic thesis or dissertation and for certification of graduate degree final examinations to graduate school

Dec. 19
Final grades officially available to students via Touchtone, Online and UTEP e-mail
students from dropping out due to money issues. “A lot of students face big financial problems after their first semesters here and some have to drop out of college,” Meza said. “What we try to do is show them that there are a lot of ways to pay for college and learning how to manage your money will go a long way in helping you afford college.”

Sukhdeep Labana, graduate student in electrical engineering and Money Matters mentor, said one of the main issues students have when they enter college is the lack of knowledge and experience in dealing with financial issues.

“Most of the students starting college are used to having their parents take care of all their financial matters, so when they come to college, this is their first time dealing with these issues,” Labana said. “So that is why we are here. We want them to have a place where they can get information and learn how to handle these issues, so they are not just left on their own to figure this stuff out.”

Kristine Velasquez, senior chemistry major and Money Matters mentor, said one of the best aspects of the programs is that it gives advice to students from students that have experience in dealing with the financial burdens of higher education.

“It is hard dealing with all these financial issues and it is easier for students to get advice from other students that have gone through all of this,” Velasquez said. “It shows them that they are not going through this alone and many students, including us, have had to deal with this. So we are here to help them and show them ways they can pay for college and manage their money.”

Mentors of Money Matters present at various classes throughout the semester to let students know that help is out there and that changing their spending habits can amount to a lot of savings. The presentation includes interesting facts like buying a coffee daily at Starbucks can add up to more than $1,000 for one year. The goal of the presentation is to show students that small changes in their spending habits can have a dramatic effect on their bank accounts.

“People don’t realize how spending money on little things can add up,” Teran said. “During our presentation, we talk about how you can have fun on a budget, which was put together by UTEP students, and these tips can help save money and can be fun.”

While the Money Matters team focuses on class presentations, they are available for one-on-one meetings throughout the semester. The office of Money Matters is located on the third floor of Union Building East in the Office of Special Events.

As part of their program to encourage students to visit their website, they are offering a $100 gift card to the UTEP Bookstore for student feedback.

Aaron Martinez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

HAVE FUN ON A BUDGET: ADVICE FOR UTEP STUDENTS from UTEP STUDENTS

EXPLORE FUN ACTIVITIES ON CAMPUS

Most activities are free for students!

Go see a movie at the Union Cinema
Make some noise at a Miners game
Attend a lecture series
Get in shape at the Swimming and Fitness Center
Share coffee with friends at the Library or Union
Attend a recital or concert
Enjoy music at the Music Café on the Union Plaza

A NIGHT OUT ON A BUDGET
If you must consume alcohol, drink responsibly!
Be the designated driver
Drink small drinks instead of alcohol
Look for drink specials or free admission
Take in one car and share the ride

DATING WITHOUT OVERSPENDING
Go for a bike ride and share on ice cream cone
Have a picnic instead of going out to eat
Go hiking and watch the sunset
Tour the holiday lights with a cup of hot chocolate

FUN WITH FRIENDS
Get together for a game night at someone’s house
Rent movies for $1 at Red Box
Cook meals together or potluck
Get sightseeing and take photos
Scrapbook and blog
Take a day trip to a place near U-Pass
Go window shopping without your credit cards
Join an intramural team
Use coupons for restaurants, bowling, and movies

STRETCH YOUR DOLLAR
Pass on the expensive coffee drinks
Get a bus pass — save on gas and parking
Pack a lunch — it costs less than eating at a restaurant
Recycle your water bottles
Buy used books or share books with friends in the same class
Ask yourself, “Do I want this or do I need this?” before making a purchase.

Share clothes with friends and do your makeup at home — you look good girl!

Buy classic styles rather than trendy clothes.

The information on this website is intended to help you manage financial issues common to college students. It is not advice from...
School of Nursing will be housed in the new building, which encompasses more than 3,000 students.

Although, there are five programs that will remain at the old location, including occupational and physical therapy, speech language pathology and pharmacy. In addition, about 200 graduate students will continue their work there.

The four-story, 138,000-square-foot building offers large classrooms, seminar rooms, research facilities and laboratories and a clinical simulation center. The Clinical Simulation Center features simulation labs, testing rooms, standardized patient rooms and an apartment-style home care setting, which was made possible by a $1.5 million grant from the Paso del Norte Foundation, Curtis said.

Students such as Debra Drost, senior nursing major, are excited about what the Clinical Simulation Center has to offer.

“My favorite part of the building is the Simulation Center because it has more beds and it is technologically advanced,” Drost said. “It emulates what a hospital is really like.”

The increase number of laboratories will allow students to study the risks for metabolic and cardiovascular diseases, analyze the nutrient composition of food and biological samples, and research human infectious diseases where vaccines can be developed.

In addition to these facilities, the new building provides ample space, such as a student lounge and the Caprice Marie Padilla Quiet Study Room, which comes equipped with dry erase boards and cables to connect laptop computers to flat screen displays.

“I love the student space they gave us,” Pérez said. “There is a lot of space for students such as group study rooms with really comfortable chairs and boards to write on.”

Curtis hopes the new location will make it easier to promote a message of health and wellness for the whole UTEP campus.

“In addition to our existing programs, we will be starting several new academic programs, having a career fair in October and weekly research presentations called ‘The Healthy Exchange’ series,” Curtis said.

Among Curtis’ goals for the 2011-2012 school year is the recruitment of outstanding faculty members and students. She believes the new facility will help the colleges achieve this end.

“We will continue to promote excellence in interdisciplinary teaching, research and service, and further strengthen our engagement with the regional community,” Curtis said.

Adam Martínez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
Borderzone

Conference held on ways to enhance border security

BY WILLIAM BLACKBURN AND JESUS SANCHEZ
Special to the Prospector

México is going through a structural change to strengthen government and law enforcement in order to combat crime more effectively and weaken the drug cartels, according to a Mexican government official.

México has made great strides recruiting police officers and government workers that are not corrupt to help fight the drug cartels, said Alejandro Poire, a spokesman for the Mexican National Security Council and Cabinet.

Speaking to leaders of the public and private sectors of México and the United States gathered August 15 and 16 at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) for the Eighth Annual Border Security Conference, Poire said Mexican courts are now prosecuting criminals more swiftly.

"México made a massive Congressional reform in 2007," he said. "In 2006 México only had 6,500 federal police officers and today there are more than 35,000 federal police officers," Poire said. "The biggest problem with México is that cities like Juárez have grown, but there are not enough economic resources to keep up with the growth of the population."

The U.S. side of the 2000-mile long U.S.-México border is more secure now than it has been at any time in the past 30 years according to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection region commissioner Alan Bersin.

"The border is the most secure from contraband in 30 years," Bersin said. "Crime is down from San Diego to Brownsville and El Paso and Phoenix, Arizona are among the safest cities in America."

Bersin said that "Operation Hold the Line" started in Texas in 1993 still is effective in stopping illegal immigrants from crossing the border, forcing the smugglers and immigrants to cross further west into Arizona.

"There are 21,000 border patrol agents and 60,000 Customs and Border Protection employees that are dedicated to protect the border," he said.

The United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk said it is plain to see just how important trade with México is in Texas. In 2009, the El Paso metropolitan region exported approximately $5.8 billion to México, which comes to over $16 million daily.

Those facts and figures represent real benefits for Texas families, he said. Trade with México supports good-paying jobs here at home, he said. One of every four manufacturing jobs in Texas depends on manufacturing exports, he said.

You can simply watch the bridges over the Rio Grande, where steady caravans of cars, trucks, buses, and motorbikes carry some of the nearly 1 million people who cross the border in both directions every day," he said.

U.S. Representative Silvestre Reyes (D-Texas) and UTEP President Dr. Diana Natalicio hosted the conference on the UTEP campus. The conference couldn't have been assembled at a better location than a border community according to Dr. Richard Pineda, Associate Professor of Communication at UTEP.

"I think there is something important about having a conference about the border on the border, because it gives people a perspective, you have some insight. I think it's harder to get it if you had a conference in México City or in Washington, D.C.," he said.

This story was previously published on Borderzine.com, a project of the Department of Communication. William Blackburn, senior multimedia major, and Jesus Sanchez, senior multimedia major, may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
Seven UTEP faculty to be honored for outstanding teaching

Seven faculty members from The University of Texas at El Paso have been recognized for their commitment to teaching and their ability to deliver excellence to the undergraduate learning experience in the classroom. For the third year in a row, UTEP faculty members have been selected to receive The University of Texas System Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Awards. The UTEP honorees were recognized at a ceremony Aug. 24 at the UT Austin campus. The recipients are Carolyn Mitchell, senior lecturer, Department of Communication; Keith Ertkson, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of History; Bridget Konter, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Geophysical Sciences; Larry Lever, Ph.D., professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences; Stacey Sowards, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Communication; Stephen Stafford, Ph.D., professor, Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering; and Rachelle Thevews, professor, Department of Art.

“We are very pleased and proud that another outstanding group of UTEP faculty members is being recognized by The University of Texas System Board of Regents,” said UTEP President Dana Natalicio. “Each of these prestigious awards is a testament to the quality of UTEP faculty teachers and mentors and their dedication to UTEP’s mission of providing our 21st century students with excellent educational opportunities. All of us on the campus join in congratulating them on these well-deserved honors and thank them for all they do for UTEP and the students we serve.”

The UT System Board of Regents will also honor 72 faculty members from the system’s nine academic institutions who demonstrate extraordinary classroom performance and innovation at the undergraduate level.

**UTEF researcher earns NIH grant to study liver cancer**

The National Institutes of Health awarded a UTEP researcher with a four-year, $1.05 million grant to continue his study into ways to detect, diagnose and treat liver cancer, which impacts U.S. Hispanics more than twice as often as non-Hispanic whites.

Jianying Zhang, Ph.D., associate professor of biological sciences, said one of his short-term goals is to create biological markers that will better predict liver cancer in patients with chronic viral hepatitis and liver cirrhosis. His long-term goals include the development of advanced detection methods. Zhang has researched liver cancer since the mid-1990s because he realized there was a lack of suitable biomarkers for early detection of this type of cancer, which seems to hit Hispanics the hardest.

He and his 11-member team plan to use novel strategies, including 3-D technology, to develop methods of early detection of abnormal cells. His team is made up of three doctoral students, two master’s students, three undergraduate students and one visiting scholar. The new grant will allow him to hire two postdoctoral students.

**UTEF’s Office of Student Affairs names interim vice president**

President Diana Natalicio has appointed Gary Edens as interim vice president of student affairs effective Sept. 1, following the retirement of Richard Padilla, who served as vice president for student affairs since March of 1994.

“I am very pleased to announce that Dr. Gary Edens has agreed to serve as interim vice president for student affairs,” Natalicio said. “Having been both a student on this campus and a key member of the UTEP team for many years, Gary fully embraces our commitment to both access and excellence and shares our vision of becoming the first national research university with the Latina experience. We look forward to working with him in this new role.”

When he assumes his new duties, Edens will add eight departments to his current scope of responsibility and will oversee 18 student service departments and programs, 420 staff and student employees and a grant portfolio of more than $27.5 million.

Edens has been employed by UTEP for 21 years and is the university’s associate vice president and dean of students for the Division of Student Affairs. He has served as assistant vice provost for undergraduate studies and director of student success programs, where he oversaw the University Honors Program, Student Orientation and the nationally recognized Student Leadership Institute. He also has served as director of the Student Development Center, assistant director of the Unions Programs Office and coordinator of Leadership Programming.

**Westbound schuster exit to open in time for fall semester, existing schuster entrance to T-10 will be closed**

The Texas Department of Transportation has opened the new westbound Schuster Avenue exit ramp for the UTSA campus. However existing westbound Schuster entrance ramp to T-10 has closed for reconstruction. Traffic from Schuster Avenue wishing to enter T-10 headed west will need to turn onto Sun Bowl Drive and go through the UTEP roundabout to enter the interstate from University Avenue.

The work is part of an $8 million improvement project that eventually will include a second westbound exit lane off Schuster, a flyover bridge that will guide traffic directly onto University Avenue, and a new westbound entrance to T-10 from University.
Event

‘Al Fresco! Fridays’ offers reggae, jazz and more

BY ALEJANDRO ALBA
The Prospector

What nine years ago started as a way of keeping employees downtown on Fridays, has evolved over the past three years into a popular “month event under the production and booking of El Paso’s Convention and Performing Arts Centers.

‘Al Fresco! Fridays, in the downtown area, began as a series of concerts every Friday at 5 p.m. at the Arts Festival Plaza. The ninth annual edition of the series began in April and it will conclude on Sept. 30. “I think it’s an event everyone in town should check out,” said Christina Garcia, sophomore education major. “It is perfect for when you don’t have anything to do on a Friday.”

According to Ashley Tantimonaco, event marketing manager for El Paso’s Convention & Performing Arts Center, Al Fresco Fridays has maintained well over 1000 patrons every event from the production and booking of El Paso’s Convention and Performing Arts Centers. The ninth annual edition of the series began in April and and with a stage to showcase their music.

The event not only features local bands, but also local flavored music, such as Cumbia, Salsa, Reggae, Classic Rock, and Blues among others genres. “The music is so diverse, but my favorite part is when older couples start to dance,” Garcia said. “It is very cute.”

Just like Garcia, Natalia Miller, sophomore electrical engineering major, agreed that the music is very diverse and enjoyable. “My friends and I tend to go once or twice a month,” Miller said. “Usually we start our night there with a little dancing.”

According to Tantimonaco, weather has not affect the attendance at the plaza, although, the warm weather might have deterred a few patrons, said Tantimonaco. “I believe the allure of sitting outside, enjoying a beverage and relaxing is still the way many El Pasoans kick off their weekend,” Tantimonaco said.

Al Fresco Friday will be featuring the rock, alternative local band Red City Blue this upcoming Friday, Aug. 26.

The rest of the band line up can be found on Al Fresco Fridays’ website at www.alfrescofridays.com. Admissions are $5 for adults, $8 for students and seniors $8.

“Shakespeare on the Rocks’ this year is featuring “Othello”, “Taming of the Shrew” and “Twelfth Night”.

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA
The Prospector

Entering their 23rd season of Shakespeare on the Rocks, the El Paso community will soon enjoy the performing arts of Shakespeare’s western literature under the stars. Shakespeare on the Rocks returns to the stage beginning Aug. 26 at the Chamizal National Memorial Amphitheatre. This year the event will feature three different plays: “Taming of the Shrew”, “Othello” and “Twelfth Night.” It will run each weekend until Sept. 11.

“It’s a challenge because you have a month to go over the lines, but you have your life and other stuff to do and when it comes down to Shakespeare it becomes your focus,” actor Alex Wright said. “You have to focus on it because you may think memorizing the lines is easy but it’s pretty challenging because you have to know what you’re saying in order to put emotion into it and to develop the character.”

Paloma Flores, senior media advertising major, said that’s been to Shakespeare on the Rocks two years ago.

“I really liked it. It’s good that there are activities and events that promote culture and are accessible to the community. You forget you are in El Paso. It was like a medieval festival.” This is Shakespeare on the Rocks’ second year at the Chamizal National Memorial Theatre. Before it was held at the McKelligon Canyon Amphitheater then at Yelta Fine Arts Amphitheater.

Shakespeare on the Rocks’ Artistic director Hector Serrano talked about how the annual Shakespeare series came into fruition. “I created Viva! El Paso in 1978, which became more of a dancing and singing show. So more of the acting was left out,” he said.

That’s when Serrano said he decided to take a different path. “I said, ‘well why don’t I create a Shakespeare festival?’ As soon as Viva! closes, we’ll open Shakespeare for the actors,” he said.

Tickets can be purchased in advance for $40 at any cashier within any El Paso Community College campus. Tickets at the door will be $10 for adults, $8 for students and seniors citizens.

For any further information about the event, visit their website at www.shakespeareontherocks.com.
Barbarian disappoints audiences

BY ANDRES RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

Catch a glimpse of a shooting star while watching a favorite film with a date. Movies at the McKelligon Canyon Amphitheatre kicked off this past weekend for its third year. This free public event plays hit movies every Friday and Saturday night until Oct 1. Movies range in category from animated kids' PG films like "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" to more mature, PG-13 films like "The Social Network.

Behind this production are the El Paso Convention & Performing Arts Centers. Also involved in sponsoring this event is the El Paso Employees Federal Credit Union. Together they have worked to give El Paso this privilege.

"We basically wanted to take the opportunity to introduce people to McKelligon Canyon, to show off the wonderful amphitheater we have and offer the wonderful weather," event marketing manager Ashley Tantimaco said. "Viva El Paso is in the canyon all throughout the summer and once that season ended, we decided to do a free event for people to come out and El Pasoans could have a little family time together.

All this was made possible this year with the big help from the El Paso Employees Federal Credit Union.

"This is the first year that El Paso Employees Federal Credit Union is sponsoring Movies in the Canyon. This was our opportunity to show how we are trying to get more involved with the community," social communications specialist Elisa Arce said. "We do a lot of family events, we sponsor the celebration of lights in downtown in December, we do Kites every Wednesday downtown in March, and this event is the El Paso Employees Federal Credit Union offering their support towards this free event that we host throughout the summer and the fall.

"Movies in the Canyon" is showing free movies every Friday and Saturday until Oct. 1 at 7:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

"Conan the Barbarian"

SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

Andres Rodriguez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

"Conan the Barbarian" starring Jason Momoa was the No. 4 movie for the weekend with $10 million.

BY ANDRES RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

Barbarian disappoints audiences

"Conan the Barbarian" is a revengeful, deep-voiced, fatherless and craving revenge. As he grows older and Momoa steps in to flesh his muscles around Hyboria, looking for his father's killer, all while my interest steps out.

The violence crescendos as the village is slaughtered leaving Conan his wife back from the dead to rule and his witch daughter, Marique. He seeks supernatural powers to bring his wife back from the dead to rule the world as a god. The motive, however, is again lost in the gore and the violence.

The uneven script and insipid action sequences that are at times interesting and engaging but overall they are filmed and edited too frenetically to appreciate the true gore and action. Conan escaping sand monsters is perhaps the least forgettable action sequence, mostly due to the computer-generated imagery monsters. Still, the action somewhat saves the movie from an uneventful script and inapropriate characters.

There is little to like about the protagonist. Yes, he is out to avenge his father and his anger comes with purpose, yet I did not root for him. Conan is a revengful, deep-voiced, beefed up one-dimensional character. We are supposed to believe that Conan loved his father and is out to kill in his name. Instead, what we see is a nomadic warrior hunting down actor Stephen Lang not because he loves his father but because he's got a sword, muscles and blood has to be shed.

The lack of character development is seen shamelessly in Conan's pure-blood love interest Tamara (Rachel Nichols). She screams, "Conan!" once in a while and is given not much to say for the storyline and characters.

The film begins strong in gore. Conan (Jason Momoa) is born amidst swirling swords and screaming barbarians from a battle-injured mother. Then, the film reaches its high point with Leo Howard's performance as a young Conan. He is relentless and barbaric as he slashes a group of savages, decapitates them and dangles their heads by the hair to the village. I could not help but cringe at the sight of that naive face splattered in blood.

The scenery was breathtaking and the costume and set design were incredibly meticulous and well made. They were not completely enthralling but they were certainly nice to look at. The scenery was breathtaking and the cities looked authentic.

For all its flaws, "Conan the Barbarian" will please its target audience made up of young men seeking a dose of gory machismo. For others, although it might be occasionally fun and nice to look at, the film will remain full of unmemorable characters, a muddly script, and unashamed violence. Two out of five picks.

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA
The Prospector

Catch a glimpse of a shooting star while watching a favorite film with a date. Movies at the McKelligon Canyon Amphitheatre kicked off this past weekend for its third year. This free public event plays hit movies every Friday and Saturday night until Oct 1. Movies range in category from animated kids' PG films like "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" to more mature, PG-13 films like "The Social Network.

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amazon.com/textbooks
“Burritos Crisostomo” delights El Pasoans with homemade food served at its two locations, one at 5658 N. Mesa, and the second one at 1420 Lee Trevino. At this second location you will also find “El Taco de Oro,” which specializes in tacos and tortas of barbacoa, buche, lengua, arrachera and sirlin. The story of Burritos Crisostomo began more than three decades ago in Cd. Juárez, when Ricardo Anzures opened a “comida corrida” (home-style food) restaurant. Soon after opening, their burritos became a big hit. Years later, Anzures changed the restaurant’s name to El Burro de Oro (The Golden Burro), specializing in selling his tortillas. One of the clients who witnessed the incident said he didn’t care if his burritos were made with tortillas. One of the clients who witnessed the incident said he didn’t care if his burritos were made with tortillas—he just wanted his burrito. Anzures realized that if clients were willing to have a burrito made out of a tortilla dropped on the floor, there had to be something special about the burritos they were producing.

“Success in a restaurant is a set of details like good food, good prices and excellent service, what else is left?” Anzures said. He also says decisions about changes are made based on knowing what the client wants.

After several offers were made from people wanting to place Crisostomo franchises in to places like Los Angeles and Dallas, Anzures decided it would be a good idea to open one in El Paso. He says that selling franchises is not an option, since Crisostomo is a family-operated business and he plans to keep it that way.

Ten years ago, Univision’s “Primer Impacto” did a story on Burritos Crisostomo. The story, which ran in both Mexico and the United States, named employee Manuel Guiyen as the fastest burrito maker in northern Mexico. The next time you step by Burritos Crisostomo, remember you are not in just any burrito restaurant. You will get the best burritos in the borderland, made daily with fresh ingredients and homemade tortillas.

Burritos Crisostomo was started by Ricardo Anzures in 1986. He founded the restaurant’s new name in San Juan Crisostomo (Crisostomo translates to the golden mouth), thus the name Burritos Crisostomo. Certainly naming it after a saint paid off. Around Juárez and El Paso, the restaurant offers the best burritos in town, and for some it even goes beyond that.

Burritos Crisostomo offers drive-thru service for your convenience. Hand-made tortillas are the signature touch.

THE RESTAURANT THAT OFFERS THE BEST BURRITOS IN TOWN.
Spotify and Turntable.fm populating music streaming

BY JERRY ALDAZ
The Prospector

With the arrival of Spotify and Turntable.fm in recent months, students have additional options when discovering music besides online services such as Pandora, Rhapsody and iTunes.

Spotify, a Swedish-based import, made its American debut on July 14. Categorized as an on-demand music service, Spotify can import iTunes or Windows Media Player playlists and integrate stored music into its interface while offering unlimited access to 15 million songs.

According to the New York Times, Spotify’s streaming rights come from cured agreements with record labels the continuous negotiations and secure agreements with record labels like Warner Music Group. Premium, Spotify has an American user-base of 1.4 million. The Washington Post also notes that 175,000 of total subscriptions are paid memberships.

Once open, an ad-supported free version will grant unlimited music access for six months as an introductory promotion. Once the account exceeds the given time limit, streaming will be limited to 10 hours per week. Paying only $4.99 per month, eliminates advertisements and reestablishes unlimited monthly streaming. Upgrading to Premium, totaling $9.99 per month, unlocks mobile streaming. Capable of synchronizing preferred playlists on-the-go, Spotify Premium allows on-demand music through any smartphone or computer even when not connected to the Internet.

"Using Spotify is better for me because it categorizes my music very well and it also gives me an opportunity to share music with my friends," said Miguel Ramirez, senior creative writing major. "It also finds the iPhone app convenient because I can enjoy custom playlists and stream new songs even when they are not synced with my phone."

Students interested in interacting with individuals of similar music preferences might find Turntable.fm the fitting environment for musical exploration.

As outlined by Forbes, Turntable.fm features member-made listening rooms. Consisting of five DJs and a virtual dance floor, user avatars have the opportunity to communicate with each other through an embedded chat.

DJs take turns in showcasing individual tracks of their liking. Songs played can either be retrieved from the database of 11 million tracks. Playing music with my phone, "said Rebekah Renner Grado, senior English major. "I often like to be an spectator on the crowd while I do other tasks on the Internet. It expands my musical horizons by listening and uncovering trends others are interested in."

"The New York Times states that Turntable.fm has been an efficient outlet for small record companies. According to the report, labels are using this interactive musical medium to receive feedback on sponsored musicians and observe promising artists."

"Jerry Aldaz may be reached at prosptor@elpaso.edu."


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Convenience and fixed monthly rates have influenced the way people access films. For the first time since 2001, movie rentals have outnumbered movie purchases, according to Los Angeles Times. While distributors Blockbuster and Hollywood Video have experienced declining revenue, Netflix, Redbox and other online providers have received consumer adoptability.

Failing to adapt to consumer preferences, Bloomberg reported that Movie gallery, parent company of Hollywood Video, filed for bankruptcy court last year. Primary rival Blockbuster also filed for bankruptcy in 2010, as announced by the Toronto Sun.

With 25 million subscribers and 20 percent of all bandwidth consumption, according to various online sources, Netflix has become a prominent competitor in the movie rental industry. Under its official website, Netflix packages start at $7.99 for unlimited streaming of movies and TV shows. Streaming can be accessed through all major gaming consoles, select smartphones and tablets alongside an array of Internet-capable devices. Netflix also offers DVD rentals (one-at-a-time) for only $7.99 per month and an additional $2 add-on to receive Blu-Ray movies.

“The best thing about Netflix is it’s ready whenever you are,” said Maria Pasillas, junior creative writing major. “You don’t have to have to drive anywhere with the probability that what you’re looking for isn’t available. Netflix might not have what you want on Instant Streaming, but it’s more likely that you’ll find an old favorite you want to watch.”

For students who prefer physical DVDs, both Redbox and Blockbuster offer attractive rates on Hollywood’s biggest hits. Calculated at approximately 27,800 kiosks across the nation, Redbox’s accommodating locations make movie night a hassle-free experience. Printed on the machines themselves, Redbox’s DVD rentals cost one dollar per night while Blu-Ray rank at $1.50 a night. Attempt to entice gamers, CBS further reports that Redbox has begun renting video games at $2 per night.

“Redbox is quick and easy. The movies available are popular and most recent,” said Stephanie Torres, freshman music performance major. “The only downside is that if you feel like watching something old, you probably won’t find it there.”

For those in search of a broader selection, Blockbuster’s hier rental system can prove a beneficial alternative. Start at $11.99 per month, customers can rent one movie or video game at a time. The company also offers two-disc rentals for $16.99 and a three-disc package for $19.99. “Netflix and Redbox have seriously damaged sales,” said a local Blockbuster employee who wished to remain anonymous. “Daily revenue used to be in the hundreds, and while I don’t have exact figures, profit has been notably lower. The decrease in business has dramatically lowered employee hours.”

Additional online streaming services from YouTube and Amazon provide movie lovers with even more choices and payment flexibility. Adjacent to YouTube’s search bar, YouTube movies is an online portal which features recently released films and popular classics. Ranging from $2.99 to $3.99, this rental system grants users a 24-hour viewing pass. This service also offers free movies with scheduled commercial interruptions. Similarly, Amazon Instant Video offers streaming on more than 5,000 films and TV shows. Prices vary from $0.99 for daily specials to $20.99 for an entire TV season. The online retailer also offers Amazon Prime – a $79 yearly subscription which allows members unlimited streaming.

Jerry Aldaz may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Diana Amar / The Prospector

Junior criminal justice major Justin Tompkins, left, and freshman Biochem major Marco Lopez, right, browse Netflix for a movie to watch during their break from class.

“The best thing about Netflix is it’s ready whenever you are, you don’t have to drive anywhere with the probability that what you’re looking for isn’t available.”
- Maria Pasillas
junior creative writing major

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By Daniel Ornelas

The Prospector

First year cornerbacks coach Gabe Franklin expects his players to play with some swag. Franklin has some swag of his own as he brings experience from both the collegiate and NFL levels.

“I’m looking for playmakers out there who aren’t afraid to make the big play,” Franklin said. “Go out there with some swag, what they call it, and have confidence out there and play fast.”

He joined the Miners coaching staff this past summer after receiving a call about an opening from safeties coach Al Simmons.

“It was a late move, but I don’t think we could have found anybody better. He just worked out great. We miss Allen Johnson; he was kind of a player favorite,” Price said. “Gabe has so much experience playing in the league and playing in a good program at Boise State...for a young guy, he’s tremendous. I’m very pleased with how he’s doing.”

Before joining the Miners, Franklin played his college ball at Boise State, a former Western Athletic Conference foe of UTEP. There, he was part of a team that compiled a 44-7 record including two bowl wins between 2001 and 2004.

NFL teams called for Franklin’s services. He signed as a free agent with the San Diego Chargers, New York Giants and San Francisco 49ers during his three-year stint. He even made a run in the now extinguished NFL Europe with the Cologne Centurions.

After his playing career was over in 2007, Franklin turned to coaching going back home to his high school, Bishop O’Dowd in Oakland, California. He broke into the college coaching ranks at the University of California as a defensive assistant from 2008 through 2009 then earned his first cornerbacks coaching job at the University of San Diego in 2010.

“I got on at Cal as a defensive assistant for two years. I learned a lot and that’s where I met coach Simmons. We both coached the defensive backs,” Franklin said. “This past summer I got a call from coach Simmons. He told me they had a job opening here. I had the interview and now I’m here. I’m really excited.”

Prior to UTEP, he helped coach players at Cal who were drafted and are playing in the NFL: Syd’Quan Thompson with the Denver Broncos and Chris Conte with the Chicago Bears.

“I’ve been there and I know what it takes to get there and I’ve coached kids who have gotten there. I see some talent here that has a chance,” Franklin said. “I tell the guys everyday to keep working to get to that next step and take each day as a stepping stone to your dream...I look forward to seeing them in the future playing in the NFL.”

Defensive coordinator Andre Patterson is pleased with what he’s seen so far from coach Franklin.

“Playing beach volleyball is completely different than playing indoor volleyball,” Figueroa said. “It’s just you and your partner. You don’t have a coach or a big team, and I do like it better because you don’t have to worry if the players are ready to perform. It’s just a different atmosphere.”

In high school, she was named her team’s MVP in 2007. She then went on to win gold twice at the USA Volleyball Junior Olympics. Figueroa was offered a scholarship by Iowa Western Community College from 2008 to 2009 when she became Iowa West’s all-time career leader in digs. She led the team to a 42-6 record that placed them in sixth place at the NJCAA Championships.

“One of my dreams was always to get a scholarship to the U.S. and the opportunity was there so I took it,” Figueroa said.

After two years at the community college, she was invited to play at UTEP by coach Murphy. In her first season, she totaled 476 digs, which placed third in the UTEP’s record books for digs in a season.

“I had never been to El Paso,” she said. “When I was on the plane I saw all the dry, desert mountains, which was weird. I’m from Puerto Rico so I’m used to seeing a lot of green and here it was just super dry.”

Despite the shock of her new surroundings, Figueroa fell in love with the campus and found that everyone was extremely welcoming. Figueroa’s roommate and sophomore libero Victoria Franklin found a friend and a role model when they met.

“It was kind of funny ending up as roommates because we both play the same position, we’re the same height, we both wear the same size, like the same stuff and have the same jump serve,” Franklin said. “We got along just fine and we became very good friends. So much so that my family has called her their daughter because we act like sisters.”

Leading the team, Franklin tries to instill the same confidence in her teammates and help them realize what they need improvement on.

“We are trying to find more ways to give her more responsibilities,” Murphy said. “We want our players to train like her and think like her because she is a very talented player and off the court.”

Valencia has given Figueroa a nickname because of how much she helps the team get better.

“We both bring each other up, we look for support in each other and I always look up to her so she is kind of like ‘My Little Leader,’” Valencia said. “She just gives feedback on what she saw from her point of view and we all appreciate that because she never puts us down. She has confidence in everyone.”

With their first game around the corner, Figueroa looks forward to reining her play and helping the team work harder this season.

“There is always room for improvement and I want to improve on our serve-receive and my defense,” Figueroa said. “As a team we need to play hard all the time, no matter the team and no matter how tired we are.”

The Miners volleyball team will continue the season with high hopes despite knowing at the end of the year the seniors will be leaving.

“It’s going to be sad when she leaves because she is a senior but we all learn from her and our good chemistry on the court,” Valencia said.
With 1,705 fans in the stands, the UTEP Miners showed their nerves for the first 45 minutes of the 2011 season. By the time it was all said and done, head coach Kevin Cross had one message to indicate his sigh of relief.

"Thank goodness for Tess Hall. We felt the first half we didn't play our soccer, not representing what we did in training camp," Cross said. "I thought the girls were tight because it was an electric atmosphere. We talked to them in the second half and it changed completely."

Junior midfielder Tess Hall scored two goals off of free kicks in the second half to defeat the NMSU Aggies 2-0 in front of a record-breaking crowd Aug. 19 at University Field.

"We always tell the team that set pieces win games at every level and today, Tess Hall showed that she's one of the best in the country at taking set pieces," Cross said. "When I recruited her, I told her she was a female version of David Beckham, in a positive sense, because she can bend the balls around the wall."

UTEP continued to control possession of the ball after the score and were quickly looking for an insurance goal. The Miners had to wait just six minutes for another opportunity when Hall was allowed another free kick a few feet farther than her first shot. This time, the wall of defenders stopped the goal for a short moment. The shot hit a leaping defender and before it could touch the ground, Hall kicked it under the wall to score in the bottom-right hand corner of the goal.

"I didn't expect it all and even after I struck it, I didn't expect it to go in," Hall said. "Just to see it hit the back of the net was a great surprise."

In a final gasp of desperation, the Aggies tried to get back in the game with under nine minutes to play in the contest. NMSU took their only three shots on goal in that stretch but freshman goalkeeper Sarah Dilling came up with the saves in her first collegiate start.

"The first few minutes I was kind of freaking out when I found out I was going to start," Dilling said. "I settled down, the second half of the first half and got into it. The team settled down in the second half and we were good."

Dilling faced the game with five saves just one day after Cross told her she would be getting the start. One of her saves to preserve the tie came in the 11th minute when she stopped sophomore midfielder Daisy Hernandez's point-blank shot from inside the box.

Following a slow first half that seemed to be dominated by the Aggies in terms of possession, the Miners were in control for nearly the entire second half. UTEP took 11 shots in the second half including three on goal in the final 45 minutes.

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The first shot came just one minute into the game when sophomore midfielder Tori Martyn was stopped by NMSU sophomore goalie Erin Woosick. That set up back-to-back corners that could not find the target and initially stopped the Miners' best attempt at the goal in the first half.

UTEP will now take on Houston Baptist in the first game of the Second-Annual Border Bash Aug. 26 at University Field. The Miners will conclude the invitational against Prairie View A&M at 1 p.m. Aug. 28.

William Vega may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
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Junior safety marches defense into new season

BY DANILO ORNELAS

A leader is defined as a person who guides or directs a group. The responsibility of a leader may simply come with the territory of being the eldest in that group. Junior safety DeShawn Grayson has both the ability to lead and the responsibility of being the eldest in the defensive back group.

"It pretty much comes with the territory. Then again, I am the oldest and the most experienced in the safety room and overall on the field as well," Grayson said. "Somebody has to step up and a lot of guys look up to me, so I have to play that role.

Grayson's career at UTEP has been a successful one so far. He earned Conference USA-All Freshman team honors in 2009, played all 33 games last season starting in 11 of them at free safety.

Head Coach, Mike Price is hoping Grayson reshapes the leadership role and expects a great year out of him. "I think about that time that he does (step in as a leader). We'll see if he does or not," Price said. "He's going to have a great year. He's kind of the quarterback in the backfield out there on defense."

Grayson caught the eye of coach Price as a high school star at Rancho Verde in Riverside, California. He attended the same high school as former UTEP defensive leader, De'Mon Cromartie-Smith, now a member of the Pittsburgh Steelers. At Rancho Verde, Grayson was named team MVP first team All-League and was selected to play in the Southern California Bowl.

"Cromartie was a stepping stone, I felt that after he got out he gave us younger guys opportunities and made us look at UTEP," Grayson said. "For sure I wasn't thinking about UTEP at the time and I started to look more into it. After seeing Cromartie here, it just made me want to be here. I just knew it would be a great school."

Grayson knew UTEP was the right fit for him and is confident he made the right choice in becoming a Miner. "Coaches, loyal players, the environment, everything just fits me," Price said. "I'm not a party guy. Just football and school."

Defensive Coordinator, Andre Patterson is looking to Grayson to be the leader everyone expects him to be. "He's been doing a great job with that ever since the season was over last year. (He's) trying to become a leader in the back end as well as with the whole defense," Patterson said. "We don't do anything freelance, we play technique, gap responsibility defenses. It's a guy playing as one.

"Grayson is excited for what his junior season has ahead for him and his teammates. "I'm looking for a great year, most of us are coming back," Grayson said. "I think we have that experience playing together and what it takes to be good or to be great."

"His teammates have seen the benefit of having a veteran like Grayson in the back end of the defense," DeShawn Grayson's a great player. I've always felt comfortable with him over the top. He has great speed and he's real tough guy," junior corner-back Drew Thomas said. "He is one of the leaders out there, he's really vocal on the field and that's helpful, especially to a corner."
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- Friday, September 9: 2 - 3 pm
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