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Student employees tend to the needs of the disabled

BY LORAIN WATTERS

Campus transformations ripple throughout campus and the Center for Accommodation and Support Services, previously the Disabled Student Services office, sees a growing need to provide students, disabled or not, with full accommodations to ensure their success.

“The aspiration towards tier-one status makes this a vital place to work and with challenges along the way, we are working very closely for the accommodations to be carried out,” said Bill Dethlefs, director of CASS.

According to Dethlefs, the number of students that CASS served last year was 400 and that number jumped to 530 this semester.

“I find it to be very encouraging that everything is done with a team approach.”

-Corene Seymour, CASS employee

“We’re continuing to see students with all kinds of disabilities, and the disability in particular that we respond to is defined under the ADA (American with Disabilities Act) as anyone who has a physical, mental or other health condition that significantly impacts some aspect of their life,” Dethlefs said. “This covers a broad spectrum, and over the last year, the federal government defined certain food allergies as disabled under the ADA.”

CASS is currently in need for students to help assist with high demand tasks. Currently, there are three student employees at CASS. The department is in the process of reposting the position of Assistive Technology Specialist because the need for one is becoming greater.

Among the many changes at CASS, workstudy students assist with converting textbooks into audio books or converting the textbook to fit students’ need such as audio books or converting the text into large print. However, students still need to purchase the physical book before any conversions can be made, otherwise it may be considered copyright infringement.

UTEP day care offers alternative to students

BY VANNIE ALDERETE

Supporting non-traditional stu-
dents, the YWCA University Heights Child Development Center—formally known as the Adelante Child Development Center—offers UTEP students a place to leave their children during the day.

“I’ve been here (for) about 22 years, and our staff is excellent; they have been with me a long time and they know what they’re doing and are truly interested in the care of the kids. We can make the day care experience a positive one,” said Kellie Faulkenberry, administrative director of the child development center.

Through a two-year process, the Adelante Child Development Center transformed its curriculum and standards into the new YWCA University Heights Child Development Center to qualify for the Child Care Services of the state of Texas.

“We have a very diverse community with children from all backgrounds. We try to accommodate the children into their appropriate age groups,” Faulkenberry said.

The center is equipped with seven classrooms, where children are divided according to their age.

From the different activities the center provides to activities on the UTEP campus, such as parades and trick-or-treating, the center tries to have the facility connected with the university.

“"Our goal is to continue caring.”

-Kellie Faulkenberry, administrative director

“I encourage students to use the services available on campus. The YWCA offers a fantastic learning community and they are really involved on campus,” said Catherine McGorry-Andalis, associate vice president of student life.

The YWCA University Heights Child Development Center, located at 115 N. Schuster, offers its services to students, faculty and staff.

“It gives you a peace of mind having your children close while attending classes,” Faulkenberry said. “And our open door policy allows you to check on your kids during the day.”

see DAYCARE on page 4
Lights out at the Super Bowl

BY AARON MONTEZ

The Prospector

It was surprising to watch the Baltimore Ravens bulldoze the San Francisco 49ers into submission during the first half of the 47th National Football League Super Bowl. What was even more surprising was watching the stadium go from a light globe to a dark hole for 35 minutes.

Up to the second half, my interest had drifted into the commercials, most of which were disappointing. The ones that did catch my attention were the Budweiser and Dodge commercials, which were true jerks for sure. Still, for half an hour the great lights of the Superdome were drained off while coaches, players and fans grew frustrated. The problem was highlighted by the boosing of fans in frustration as stadium and NFL officials tried to come up with a solution.

Obviously, the team that had the most to lose were the Ravens. Because of their momentum, the blackout was like hitting a metaphorical black curtain. The beginning of the second half opened up with Jacoby Jones' 108-yard touchdown return after he carried the ball from the endzone. All the momentum was in the hands of the Ravens and it seemed like they would become Super Bowl champs with ease. The Blackout, however, drained every bit of the momentum. It was as if San Francisco was given a longer halftime to prepare and rally back from their deficit. Right off the bat, San Francisco was able to score 17 points in one quarter. Going into the fourth quarter, the game was basically a restart. If you had just tuned in you would think that the teams had been going at it all game.

It also felt like the Ravens' stroke of bad luck from recent years was on the verge of creeping in once again. My first thought was, how could a power outage create such a drastic change in the game. It was apparent however, that while the teams were warming up during the outage, San Francisco players and coaches had huddled to dispense a new strategy. It was also evident that the 49ers had been able to stretch and keep their energy up in a much better way than the Ravens.

The Ravens' defense and offense had completely turned around, they had multiple three-and-outs and could not move the ball. Meanwhile, the 49ers gained favorable field advantage and were converting their drives into points. A game that had been three possessions away from the end of the 4th quarter was now a one possession game. It was surprising how the Ravens muscled their way to stretch and keep their energy up in an otherwise flat game. At least that is how it seemed.

This could be a shut out for the Ravens!

Nobody messes with Bane's favorite football team!
"We can handle 18 students at a time right now in this facility if they need to do their proctored exam, coming out to 600 proctored exams being done through the academic year," Dethlefs said.

CASS is also looking to hire a full-time American Sign Language interpreter who would be able to oversee the whole range of the requirements for interpreters, such as attending events like Orange and Blue Day and commencement. A case manager is also being sought to handle the more complex student issues that the facility sometimes faces.

"Homelessness, financial problems, medical issues and family dynamics are not resolved as quickly," Dethlefs said. "It's to follow that student and hoping that their health and lifestyle issues will stabilize to the point of their success in the classroom."

Other services that CASS provides are notetakers and scribes. Notetakers, usually another student in the same class as the student who needs the accommodation, are paid $10 per hour. They must be able to take quality notes, have recognizable handwriting and be willing to work with another student in a caring fashion. Scribes should be students who are interested in working and helping all kinds of people. Should there be a case where the student is blind and needs to take an exam in the CASS office, the scribe reads the exam questions and writes down the student's responses. Scribes are paid at an hourly rate.

"We have an obligation to provide a welcoming environment to the students who are registered with our office and the staff is a key part of this," Dethlefs said. "They must project confidence and the staff is a key part of this." Dethlefs who are registered with our office are paid at an hourly rate.

"We have an obligation as a university to serve everyone in the university who fits under the definition of disabled under the ADA, but they must declare it to be voluntary," Dethlefs said. "The more that people are aware, the more that people are willing to help someone in a wheelchair."

CASS also has student panels, where students with disabilities talk about their own life experiences or they inform others about people-first language. People-first-language allows for others to think differently about the terminology that is commonly used, such as saying wheelchair-bound instead of saying that the person is using a wheelchair. We get calls from families that are wondering how to accommodate someone with a disability or they want to know more about a particular issue," said Hector Flores, coordinator for CASS. "We don't counsel, there are experts at the counseling center who are knowledgeable in that field, but we provide consulting services."

"We train the students to be train-ers. They need to be comfortable in that role, to help someone in a wheelchair, so they need to be in a wheelchair themselves—they learn from each other," Dethlefs said. "We do not give them advantages, we only accommodate them so that they are at the same level as other students."

For Corene Seymour, graduate social work major and employee at CASS, being able to help people and provide them the answers is what makes her job all the more enlightening. "I am a disabled student here, and I find it to be very encouraging that everything is done with a team approach," Seymour said.

According to Dethlefs, the United States Census Bureau has indicated that 18 percent of the U.S. population has some disability. Eight to 11 percent of the student body around college campuses nationwide are eligible under the ADA for accommodations. However, the numbers are probably greater due to pride or lack of awareness that prevents students from reaching out and registering.

"We have an obligation to provide a welcoming environment to the students who are registered with our office and the staff is a key part of this," Dethlefs said. "They must project confidence and the staff is a key part of this."
The center works year-round with the university schedule and follows most holidays. The age range of the program is from three months to 12 years of age.

Since the transformation to a YWCA Child Development Center, the fee information on the UTEP website is no longer accurate. In order to calculate fees, the YWCA must first evaluate those interested in using the program.

“On our goal is to continue caring. It is something very important that benefits the campus,” Faulkenberry said.

The family room, provided by the Women’s Resource Center, is another option for students that are parents.

Located at 112 Union West, the family room is a quiet space with amenities such as a changing table, books, magazines, a rocking chair, non-fluorescent lights and the opportunity to network with other student parents. “The family room is open to any student parent. It is not very high in traffic, we get from five to seven regulars,” said Jeannie Trim, Student Resource Center employee. “Our doors are open, people can walk in. People use the room for different things such as pump milk or make changes.”

McCory-Andalis said the family room is very conveniently placed in the Union for parents to have a break with their kid, yet it is not to be mistaken as a day care.

“Students can use the family room in between classes to nurse their baby and have a break, but it is not to leave their kids,” McCory-Andalis said. The family room is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and there is no cost for using it.

Even though UTEP does not have a policy on allowing children into class, there also has to be consideration for other students. “I find it annoying when people bring in their children into class if they can’t be quiet,” said Alejandra Garcia, senior history major.

For more information on fees and schedules, call 532-3114. 

EPTown residents consist of 115 robots, some of which are out in the open, others are inside buildings that students have to enter. Each robot is programmed to answer 67 questions taken from a California health interview survey. The responses to the survey have been tailored to reflect broader populations in terms of ethnicity, poverty level, income and age level.

“In the summer of 2007, we had half a dozen students that were actually doing a house-to-house survey in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua city. We were doing the same kinds of things,” Curtis said. “What we’re trying to do (now) is give them the experience of collecting data before they actually go into a setting, where they’re doing it for real that’s not so much under our supervision and control.”

The 67 questions that students ask the robots are provided to them on a note card on the same screen they use to explore EPTown. Students can also go back and forth between “Sec- ond Life” and a word document with the questions. The questions must be typed in the exact way they are shown on the note card to facilitate a response. If the question is asked incorrectly or does not apply to the bot, it will respond, “I have no answer to that.” The answer also applies to 15 of the bots that are predetermined to not participate, just like people would refuse to participate in the survey; while the other 100 bots answer the questions that apply to them. “(Students) can look at the relation- ship between two of the variables. Like, if we have age and ‘have you ever been told you have a heart disease by a doc- tor’ then they could see how the mean age differs by, whether or not someone has been told or not,” Luna said. “So they can actually run analysis with this data. We learn about data, data analy- sis, simulate data collection (and) data cleaning, so they pretty much see the whole package when it comes to analy- sis of the data.”

When gathering responses from the bots, the students work individually before compiling their results. This portion of the data collection process requires consistency on behalf of the students to reduce confusion. “The errors that are made are not on the part of the robots, the errors that are made are on the part of the data collector. So when they write things down incorrectly or use a code that’s not supposed to be done, that’s where we see discrepancies in the res- ults,” Curtis said.

The rest of the data collection process relies on the students learning data entry, data quality control and then using the data collected to run statistics.

“As in most technology, we encountered glitches. However, it was actually beneficial in showing us that data collection doesn’t always go as planned and modifications need to be made sometimes,” Prado said.

The students are committed to a three-month intensive training period over the summer.

The majority of students in the program major in the biomedical sciences, chemistry, biology and microbiology. Others come from the health sciences, social work, kinesiology, public health and nursing fields. After EPTown, students move on to the second part of the MHIRT program, which entails leaving the country for six weeks to travel to an international site to do research.

Students are paid a stipend of a $1,000 a month to be in the program, plus their expenses, including travel, living expenses and support for re- search are completely covered. Stu- dents also receive 10 semester credit hours paid for by the program. Curtis said students return from the program more self-assured and with a different world view.

“It’s really a nice deal for them. They’re busy the entire summer. They can’t work, they can’t take another class, they basically are ours for the summer,” Curtis said. “It’s a fantastic experience. Their horizons have been broadened considerably. Some of the students in the pro- gram have never traveled out of the country before, some of them haven’t gone far enough to even part of this region, and so their experience of going into these other environments is really an eye-opening one.”

Students interested in applying to the program can download the application and find more information on the MHIRT website at chs.utep.edu/mhirt.
Campus

UTEP demographics reflect students from 70 different countries

BY SABRINA NUÑEZ

UTEP is adding to the region’s melting pot of cultures by hosting around 70 different countries by way of its international student population. This representation is composed of students with non-immigrant status who still hold their country’s passports and have student visas.

Seyvasti is a relatively decent number and people are usually surprised to find out that we have students from that many different countries,” said Kristin Oberheide, director of the Office of International Programs. “It’s possible that those students may be making more of a presence on campus, whether through student organizations or just kind of speaking up about their nationalities in class. But actually, the number of different countries represented has not changed very much over the past years.”

Of the 70 nationalities, the country with the largest number of enrolled students is Mexico, with approximately 1,300. Part of the reason for the large number of Mexican students at UTEP is its proximity to Mexico as well as the assistance from the PASE Program, which lets students, who demonstrate financial need, pay in-state tuition rates. PASE previously had UTEP send representatives to Mexico to recruit students. However, UTEP no longer does so because of a travel warning to Mexico issued by the U.S. Department of State. “The Office of Admissions and Recruitment used to go directly and recruit in Mexico,” Oberheide said. “We actually have seen a slight decline in Mexican students in the past years. We can’t be sure exactly why that is. Certainly economic factors can be at play, but one of the factors may be the lack of a person recruiting for UTEP there.”

After Mexico, representation from India comes in second with 70 students. India is then followed by Bangladesh, China, Colombia, South Korea, Canada, Nigeria, Iran and Libya. Despite the diversity, Oberheide said UTEP has done much to recruit to bring students from these countries.

“What’s happening is a word-of-mouth reputation building,” Oberheide said. “The students are perhaps recommending. Oh, I heard UTEP because my friend went there and it’s a good school and he’s doing well, and so that’s why we see pockets of students returning from these larger population countries.”

According to Oberheide, the bulk of international graduate students major in business, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields, whereas the range of majors for undergraduate international students accesses a greater variety.

“We have students in language studies, literature, everything. But in general, science and technology seem to be the trend in graduate school. Case by case, there are a lot of different reasons why people choose UTEP, but it really is based on their personal circumstances and perhaps a recommendation,” Oberheide said. “In a way; that’s a good reminder that if you impact an international student in a positive way you could potentially help facilitating future exchange between UTEP and other countries.”

International student Ayaj Verma, graduate student and electrical engineering major, said he came across UTEP through Internet research.

“When I was an undergrad and I decided to go for my master’s degree in the U.S., I started searching for universities in Texas on the Internet, and in doing so, I reached (the) University of Texas System website and that’s where I got to know about UTEP.”

Verma said: “I chose to study at UTEP because it has a good electrical engineering program and also because it was quite affordable.”

Verma, who is from India, where he received his bachelor’s degree, is part of the UTEP Indian Student Association, which helps students upon arriving and continues lending support throughout their stay.

“I was really happy after coming here from (the) nice professors, people and weather. However, I found the (school) system here really different from India and I was having a little trouble adapting to it, but my friends helped me get through it,” Verma said. “ISA explained to me the school system here, how to get a (job) on campus and who to contact when I have certain problems. They also organize events to celebrate Indian festivals and other cultural events on campus, which gives an opportunity to local students as well as a student from other countries to get to know Indian culture.”

Another program that brings foreign students to UTEP is Study Abroad.

The Study Abroad Office allows UTEP students to participate in three different exchange programs. These programs take students from UTEP and switch them with students in partnered universities in other countries.

The exchanges rely on an equal number of students leaving and coming to UTEP.

“We work very hard to try and get one-to-one. We’re supposed to send one and receive one; that’s the goal. Sometimes it doesn’t work, (but) we don’t force students to go places,” said Niamh Minion, study abroad coordinator. “If we’re really out of balance, we try not to say no, but sometimes we have had to say no, just because we’ve been out of balance for a really long time. That’s what brings the students here, it’s that reciprocity.”

Minion said Western Europe is the top contributor to the exchange program with the Czech Republic leading the way. However, the programs are not limited to Europe, granting other countries, such as Australia, to send students over.

“The recruitment is done the same way we do it here. It’s not UTEP recruiting, it’s the partner university (that) have the list,” Minion said. “We don’t target recruit. We’ll take whoever the (participating) university nominates.”

With the numerous options available to draw international students, Verma said he believes that UTEP is a diverse option.

“In one year that I have spent at UTEP, I have made friends from China, Jordan, Mexico, Vietnam, United States, Brazil, United Kingdom, Poland, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Langa, Singapore, Peru, etc.,” Verma said. “Although, Mexican students dominate (the) international student population, which is understandable because of its geographic location.”

Sabrina Nuñez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
Question of the week

What will you do with your tax return money?

Photos by Ociris Alvarez, Aaron Montes

AARON GARCIA
Junior microbiology major
“I would like to save it to buy video games, for school and maybe even buy a computer.”

ADRIAN ESTRADA
Junior business major
“I would save it for the future, probably for school or a house.”

VICTOR MENDEZ
Junior multimedia production major
“I am going to buy a boat because if more people had boats, this world would be a better place. Less people on land and more at sea.”

ALEJANDRA CRUZ
Freshman English major
“I would like to save it for the future just in case of an emergency.”

NIKOLAS CAMARGO
Junior music education major
“I would like to save the refund for the bills I have.”

FABIAN RUBIO
Junior political science major
“I was thinking of getting a tablet or save for a car.”

KRISTAL GARCIA
Sophomore education major
“I would like to save the money”

MICHELLE VALDIVIEZ
Junior microbiology major
“With my tax refund I will be purchasing my long awaited leopard print sperry top-siders. Then I’ll save the rest for an adventure-filled planned trip to Panama.”

RANDY SILVA
Junior business major
“I would like to save my tax refund so that I can pay for school, books and any other school supplies.”

EMILY MORALES
Senior psychology major
“I would like to pay off my credit card and save the rest.”

NICHOLAS CAMARGO
Junior music education major
“I would like to save the refund for the bills I have.”

CHRISTIAN CHEREZ
Junior computer science major
“I would like to buy a tablet or pay off my car.”

CASSANDRA ARRAS
Sophomore pre-med major
“I would like to use it to pay school loans.”

KRYSTAL GARCIA
Freshman microbiology major
“I would like to pay for school, books and any other school supplies.”

AARON GARCIA
Junior microbiology major
“I would like to save it to buy video games, for school and maybe even buy a computer.”

ALIARDO BURRIS
Junior nutrition major
“I would save it for the future.”

MIKHAIL KESSHOFF
Junior psychology major
“I would like to save for school or travel.”

EMILY MORALES
Senior psychology major
“I would like to pay off my credit card and save the rest.”

EMILY MORALES
Senior psychology major
“I would like to save the money for a car.”

FAVIAN RUBIO
Junior political science major
“I was thinking of getting a tablet or save for a car.”

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**FIT POLE STUDIO**

OFFERS NEW WAYS OF EXERCISING

Stephanie Quintana, office manager of Fit Pole on the West Side, said that it takes time and commitment to fully grasp each move and routine.

"The first time I tried the class, I was nervous on whether I would be able to get the moves, but I've been hooked ever since," Quintana said. "It's a completely fun body work out. Members who join Fit Pole are not only addicted to the workout, but gain confidence after their first class. This is why we help them set goals for themselves, keeping them away from the giving up mentality."

Despite the ongoing stigma of associating pole dancing with strip clubs, the International Pole Sports Federation, along with the Pole Fitness Association, are striving for pole dancing to be implemented as an official sport in the 2016 Olympics.

According to the IPSF, it was stated in a past Jezebel article that pole enthusiasts are strong, flexible and fit athletes.

However, before getting it to the Olympics, Spagnoletti said that terminology for every move is very important. The IPSF and the PFA, along with other associations, are coming together to unify the sport.

"Everyone in the pole-dancing community is trying to get on the same page," Spagnoletti said. "So once we have a handbook set we can be ready and have people say yes to it, but until then, this project will still be in the works."

Nancy Martinez, Fit-Pole Studio member and UTEP alumna, said that it would be wonderful for pole dancing to be recognized as a sport in the Olympics, since it would not only be an accomplishment for women, but it would also negate the stereotype towards pole dancing.

"Pole dancing has transcended into a form of fitness," Martinez said. "Thanks to the implementation and the combination of gymnastics and ballet into our dances."

Pole dancing for almost five years, Martinez is now a certified instructor and in the master level at Fit Pole Studio.

"This is my passion and what I do, I just love the challenging work out," Martinez said.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

1. Feb. 9, Downtown Art Market, Valentine’s Day Sales
2. Feb. 14, Love Letters at Black Box Theater
by Oscar Garza

For 50 years, the BBC has aired the adventures of The Doctor, an alien who can regenerate himself and change his appearance. He and his companions travel across space and time aboard the TARDIS (Time And Relative Dimension In Space) ship and it seems that with the increased popularity, The Doctor is celebrating in grand fashion.

Since its inception, a total of 11 actors have portrayed the iconic character of The Doctor, including William Hartnell, Tom Baker, Peter Davison, Sylvester McCoy.

With the reboot, which premiered in 2005, show runner Russell T. Davies and stars Christopher Eccleston and Billie Piper introduced the legendary adventures to a whole new generation of fans, while also acknowledging everything that came before.

All that popularity simply grew with the arrival of David Tennant, whose performance captured the audience's imagination for three seasons and various specials as the 10th Doctor. The show's popularity has grown even more with now shoe runner Steven Moffat ("Sherlock") and Matt Smith portrayed, along with companions Karen Gillan and Arthur Darvill of the iconic "madman with a box."

Richard Panella, an associate professor of communication, who grew up watching the show when it aired on PBS, explains its appeal and why it has endured for a long time.

"It was kind of my intro to science fiction but I always remember turning into 'Doctor Who' which was on at 9 on Saturdays," Panella said. "The other thing about 'Doctor Who' is that the stories were interesting, and so, at a minimum, you could really get a sense of these overarching narratives that had bigger issues."

Through The Doctor has existed for half a century and changed his appearance numerous times, fans can still have that particular British incarnation that they love and get attached to. It is part of the joy of the show and that is to see how different actors portray one character.

"There was something about The Doctor that was stereotypically British, but the companions always made it interesting," Panella said. "I think that a lot of that just got me thinking about stories in different ways. It really was just such a unique little space in popular culture that people kind of really got a sense of the different set of stories."

Ariadne Mendoza, sophomore electrical engineering major, shared why the show has such an enduring legacy and why it appeals to the kid in all of the viewers.

"The fact that he can go anywhere in the world is one of my favorite things of the show," Mendoza said. "A lot of factors have made the show last long, such as having the Who-vians be a very loyal audience, or the fact that The Doctor can regenerate.

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"One of the hardest moves that I’m currently trying to master is the Iron X, which is similar to a human flag by trying to keep your whole body in a horizontal line."

During February, Fit Pole will be offering UTEP students 50 percent off the monthly membership-ship fee. General monthly membership is $100. For more information, contact 590-7633. Fit Pole studios are located at 1421 Lee Trevino Drive, Suite 7 on the East Side and 1055 Sunland Park Drive on the West Side.

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During February, Fit Pole will be offering UTEP students 50 percent off the monthly membership-ship fee. General monthly membership is $100. For more information, contact 590-7633. Fit Pole studios are located at 1421 Lee Trevino Drive, Suite 7 on the East Side and 1055 Sunland Park Drive on the West Side.

"The show’s popularity has grown even more with new shoe runner Steven Moffat ("Sherlock") and Matt Smith portrayed, along with companions Karen Gillan and Arthur Darvill of the iconic "madman with a box."

Richard Panella, an associate professor of communication, who grew up watching the show when it aired on PBS, explains its appeal and why it has endured for a long time.

"It was kind of my intro to science fiction but I always remember turning into 'Doctor Who' which was on at 9 on Saturdays," Panella said. "The other thing about 'Doctor Who' is that the stories were interesting, and so, at a minimum, you could really get a sense of these overarching narratives that had bigger issues."

Through The Doctor has existed for half a century and changed his appearance numerous times, fans can still have that particular British incarnation that they love and get attached to. It is part of the joy of the show and that is to see how different actors portray one character.

"There was something about The Doctor that was stereotypically British, but the companions always made it interesting," Panella said. "I think that a lot of that just got me thinking about stories in different ways. It really was just such a unique little space in popular culture that people kind of really got a sense of the different set of stories."

Ariadne Mendoza, sophomore electrical engineering major, shared why the show has such an enduring legacy and why it appeals to the kid in all of the viewers.

"The fact that he can go anywhere in the world is one of my favorite things of the show," Mendoza said. "A lot of factors have made the show last long, such as having the Who-vians be a very loyal audience, or the fact that The Doctor can regenerate.

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Miners fall to SMU in fight for top spot

By Albert Gamboa

The Prospector

Even the 20 points from junior guard Kayla Thornton were not enough to keep the UTEP women’s basketball team from falling to the number-one team in Conference USA, the SMU Mustangs 82-73.

A win could have given the Miners sole possession of first place, but with the loss, UTEP is now in a three-way tie for second place with Tulane and East Carolina.

Junior transfer Keena Mays led the Mustangs with 26 points off of 9-of-18 shooting. Mays started the game getting inside the paint and convert- ing on layups. Then she showed off her outside game, hitting four shots from beyond the arc. Her defense was also helping her offensive game as she stole the ball for a team-high five times that converted into fast-break points.

“Keena Mays is probably the best player in the conference…you know she’s going to make some plays, but she makes it look pretty easy too,” Adams said.

The Mustangs, who average 11.5 steals per game and are the 35th-best team in the country, had 13 of them on Sunday that resulted in 20 points off those steals. Rebounding was also an issue for the Miners, as they gave SMU too many extra possessions that took the time away from the clock when UTEP really needed it. The Mustangs got 17 offensive rebounds, that contributed to four layups and three 3-pointers.

“In order for us to beat a good team, we can’t give up offensive rebounds, rebounding hurt us, every time they got a rebound they made us pay for it,” Adams said.

It was a back and forth first half as neither team was able to pull away, with four lead changes and four ties throughout the first 20 minutes. Every time it looked like SMU was going to gain a bigger lead, the Miners would answer with a quick push. SMU showed why they are the 16th-best team in the country in 3-point scoring, hitting 12 from 17 beyond the arc.

“The Miners had to look for offense during that first half as leading scorer Thornton picked up two quick fouls in the beginning of the game. She played six minutes in the first half for six points,” Mays said.

The freshman guards Irene Gari and Jamie Maddox piled up the scoring combining for 16 points and three 3-pointers in the first half.

“In the second half, UTEP came out hot and did not miss, even with good defense by the Miners. The Mustangs made 11 out of their first 13 shots to build up an 8-point lead. UTEP showed why they are the 16th-best team in the country in 3-point scoring, hitting 10 of 17 beyond the arc,” Maddox said.

They came out pretty hot in the second half, we just got to play better defense and execute,” junior guard Kelli Willingham said.

With eight minutes to go in the second half, Mays took a breather and the Miners went on a 13-2 scoring run led by Willingham and sophomore guard Christianna Parker. Willingham made her first points of the game on a 3-pointer that started the run. She then got off by hitting a lay-up while getting fouled, followed by hitting another 3-pointer. She finished with 11 points after not scoring in the first half.

Parker finished off the run by falling down, but maintaining her dribble, getting back up to find senior center Anete Steinberga, to bring the deficit down to seven and made SMU call a timeout with three minutes to go.

“I’m proud that the girls responded and all of a sudden were trying to make a run and knocking on the door,” Adams said.

That would be as close as UTEP would get as Mays returned to the game and the Mustangs offense got it going once again, closing the opportu-nity for a Miners comeback.

“It was a game of runs. They had their runs, we had our runs, and unfortunately, it wasn’t enough,” Maddox said.

The Miners are now 17-3, 5-2 in C-USA. SMU improves their winning streak to eight games and are still undefeated in Conference USA with a 14-6, 7-0 C-USA record. UTEP will head to Tulane on Feb. 7 for their first matchup of the season against the Green Wave.

UTEP was ranked 27th in the AP Top 25 poll, but with this loss they are now at 33.

“We showed some fight, but we got beat by a good team,” Adams said.

Kelli Willingham said.

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“We showed some fight, but we got beat by a good team,” Adams said.

Ereng reminisces on gold medal win in 1988 Olympics

By Edwin Delgado

The Prospector

Hard work and self-confidence can take an athlete great distances. For cross country head coach and track and field associate head coach, Paul Ereng, 800-meters was more than good enough.

“Ereng is a native of Eldoret, Kenya, and won the Olympic Gold Medal in the 800 in Seoul in 1988. At the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, Ereng was already a young promise in the track, but he wanted to do more than just compete, he wanted to excel as an athlete.

“First of all, when I got into college, my intention was to run the 400 meters and maybe the 800 as well, but when I got there the coach had a different plan and he wanted me to compete in the 800 meters instead,” Ereng said. “I had never competed in the 800 before and, so I decided to go along with what the coach wanted, as long as I could also run in the 400. I wanted to run in two events.”

During his first indoor season, Ereng suffered a hamstring injury while running the 400, which forced him to abandon the competition. His freshman year was the only time he participated in the indoor champion-ships, but with the help of his coaches, trainers and his strong will, Ereng was ready for the outdoor season.

“The hamstring kind of bothered me, every time that I tried to go fast...”

Cross-country head coach and track associate head coach Paul Ereng, has trained an NCAA champion, 27 NCAA all-americans, 73 conference champions and four NCAA regional champions. Ereng’s victory was so unexpected that the announcer confused him with his countrymen Kiprotich. The composure and determination

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Ereng reminisces on gold medal win in 1988 Olympics from the 1984 Olympics, Brazilian Joaquim Cruz and Moroccan Said Aouita, who at the time possessed world records in the 1,500, 2,000 and 5,000 meters.

The Seoul Olympic stadium was the home for Ereng and Ereng was set on the fourth place, with his fellow Kenyan Nixon Kiprotich to his left and the favorite Asafa Powell out of his sight. As the gun went off, Cruz and Kiprotich took an early lead. Ereng, as he had done in previous rounds, maintained a con-servative, but steady pace.

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Tennis

Team hopes for a turnaround season with new coach

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA

At the beginning of their spring season, the women’s tennis team is working on ending a two-year dry spell, with a combined record of 8-32 under previous coach Victor Aguilar. This year, the women’s tennis team is under head coach, Mark Roberts. He came into the program in June 2012. He will be working to rebuild the tennis team and on getting more wins on the board.

“It’s been pretty smooth for the most part,” Roberts said. “It’s never easy coming in and kind of starting new, at least from what they were used to. Forexhand, but they all actually adjusted very well in the fall. So it’s just trying to get more wins going now.”

The Miners played in three tournaments during the fall semester. They had a good outlook compared to their previous two seasons.

Senior Martina Trierweiler said the team won more matches in their first tournament this year than they did in their 2011-12 season.

“Coming from last season was awesome because last year was not that great,” Trierweiler said. “We won again, it was like, okay, now that we know that we can win, let’s do something about it.”

The Miners made the finals at the Aggie Invitational in September at Las Cruces, New Mexico.

“We saw we were good, we can do this,” Trierweiler said. “So it was a good start, but the start of this season (spring) was not that great, but we got some tough teams up there.”

Although the overall results do not look great, the team is showing progress. Looking at the results match by match, the team is getting competitive and losing by slight numbers in close matches.

“We still have a lot of matches and tournaments,” said junior Rebeca Calvillo. “We’re improving, we’re practicing hard. We’re giving our best. Coach Mark is really excited to really have a good season.”

Roberts is coaching the team on the court, both physically and mentally. Roberts said he is working on their mindset rather than just about tennis.

“I don’t think there are any easy matches in division one tennis. I think the schools that do well and are ranked; they really earn it and they’re a tough minded group,” Roberts said. “So we just got to get there, it’s definitely possible, but we got to do the little things exceptionally well which we aren’t doing right now.”

Building up the team’s confidence is one of the main things on the team’s agenda right now.

“It was a really big change between our last coach and him (Roberts)”

- Rebeca Calvillo, junior (tennis)
Student life

Student athletes on balancing school and sports

BY PAUL REYNOSO

For junior outfielder, Erika Arcuri, the life of a student athlete at UTEP has its rewards, but it also has its challenges. Arcuri, a recent transfer from Florida International, is a double major in graphic design and advertising. She says she has experienced the challenges that the student-athlete life brings to the table.

“As a transfer, I am required eight hours of study hall a week on top of six classes,” Arcuri said. “We have three-hour practices, two-hour workouts and on top of that we do a lot of homework, a lot of volunteering and charity.”

Training is another important element that is essential to student athletes to prepare them for a new season and it can be very arduous, depending on what sport is involved. “We train hard, we do a lot of lifting just the other day we ran 1.500-yard sprints,” Arcuri said. “We lift weights probably more than the normal guy on campus lifts.”

Arcuri is just one of many UTEP students who take on the task of balancing their studies and campus life with athletics. Arcuri says that despite the rigorous training, the experience is rewarding. “You get to meet a great group of girls that you get to see every day. How often do you get to have 19 best friends and get a scholarship to school?” Arcuri said. “I think I could give up the social life for that.”

On the hardwood of the Don Haskins Center, the UTEP women’s basketball team is having another tremendous season. One of the major keys to the teams’ success this season has been the play from junior forward, Kayla Thornton. “Thornton, a graduate of Irvin High School, shares the positive aspect that the student-athlete life can bring. “We get free food and we get to miss class when we travel,” Thornton said.

Thornton said that there really aren’t challenges when it comes to being a student athlete and playing basketball for UTEP, but she did emphasize caution. “Anybody that plays athletics has to be careful,” Thornton said. “Being careful about what you do and what you say in the public, because it does get out.”

For the UTEP men’s basketball team, the perks of being a student athlete can vary, but players such as graduate student, guard Konner Tucker, knows that head coach Tim Floyd expects the best out of them. “We always gotta do the right thing and try to be good role models for the younger kids and also for UTEP,” Tucker said. “We got to represent our school well and our coaches and our families to always do the right thing.”

Tucker is aware that there are some misconceptions about student athletes, especially during the season. “I think some people think we get special treatment, I mean we do, but we don’t. We still have to go to class, do homework, take tests and do all the school side of it,” Tucker said. “On the other end of it, we go to practice, watch film, lift weights and travel. There is a lot of other stuff that goes to it and it’s something I definitely wouldn’t trade for anything as a student athlete.”

But not all life for student athletes is training and playing in front of thousands of fans. They also plan on getting their diploma and think about what they want to do after graduating from UTEP. Thornton said her path after school is training with the people you work with, and when there is good communication and you do what you are asked to do, you prepare them to succeed.

“Anybody that plays athletics has to be careful,” Thornton said. “Being careful about what you do and what you say in the public, because it does get out.”

Paul Reynoso may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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Answers to 01-31-12

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Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistie

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February 5, 2013

**PAGETENSPORTS**

--- ERENG from page 9 ---

allowed him to win the Olympic medal despite having an injury. “My intention was not to win the race. At the beginning of the year, I set four goals for myself; the first goal was to win the NCAA Championship, the second goal was to make the Olympic team, my third goal was to reach the Olympic final, be a finalist and my fourth goal was to be a medalist,” Ereng said. “When I went into the final, I knew there was a possibility of getting a medal, my goal was to run a specific time every 200 meters of the race. That was the commitment which allowed me to win.”

Ereng won the gold medal in an event that he had less than a year competing, and to this day, he believes that if he had more experience he could have broken the world record.

Later on, Ereng also won gold medals in 1989 and 1991 at the Indoor World Championships in Budapest and Seville, respectively.

He graduated from Virginia in 1993 with a degree in religious studies, and is now part of the coaching staff for both cross-country and track for UTEP. He has been part of the staff since 2003 and earned his master’s degree in educational administration in 2010.

Ereng said his objective now is to take promising UTEP athletes and prepare them to succeed.

“When you believe in yourself, when you have the support system and you do what you are asked to do, and when there is good communication with the people you work with, there is always a very high possibility of success,” Ereng said.

Edwin delgado may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
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