UTEP President Diana Natalicio leads national education council

By Jasmine Aguilara / SHWire

WASHINGTON—UTEP President Diana Natalicio said she will use her new position as chair of the American Council on Education to represent the fastest growing minority in the United States in higher education.

She assumed the chairmanship March 4 during the council’s annual meeting.

Natalicio said she hopes that she can use her new position to focus on issues that are important to students like those served at UTEP, where 77.4 percent of students are Hispanic.

"There are many talented younger people in our society for whom a zip code has become a destiny," she said. "I think we've got to change that. I think we've got to appreciate the talent and nurture and develop it."

Natalicio served as the council’s vice chair last year. Gretchen Batalie, council senior vice president, said this is a normal process, and Natalicio was elected as vice chair with the idea that she would rise to the top job.

"Natalicio is an incredible president," she said of her university service. "She has achieved so much in her career and people recognize her as a strong leader. I'm not at all surprised."

At a reception March 5, on Capitol Hill, Reps. Beto O’Rourke and Ruben Hinojosa, both D-Texas, congratulated Natalicio, who has been UTEP’s president since 1988.

O’Rourke said Natalicio has taken the challenges in El Paso—being the third-poorest metropolitan statistical area in the U.S.—and turned them into opportunities.

"She has taken an institution that was performing at a certain level when she took over the helm, to one that is one of the highest-performing in the United States," he said. "In its ability to transform a community and population, UTEP has an appearance—it’s number one in the country."

During Natalicio’s trip to Washington, she was also presented with the Theodore M. Hesburgh Award for Leadership Excellence by the TIAA-CREF Institute.

The institute presented her with a $20,000 check that she will use to create need-based scholarships for UTEP students.

"This is also an incredible achievement," Batalie said. "We're very, very excited to see her receive it and to know that she'll use the reward to give back to her students."

Jasmine Aguilara is a multimedia journalism student at the University of Texas at El Paso. She is currently interning at Scripps Howard Foundation’s Semester in Washington program. She may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

NOT CONNECTED

Wi-Fi problems at Fox Fine Arts

By Sabrina Nunez
The Prospector

After experiencing trouble connecting to the Wi-Fi network at the Fox Fine Arts Center, Paulina Lopez junior communications major and liberal arts collegiate senator, drafted a petition this past November to increase the number of routers in the building.

"It's really sad to see a Starbucks in the engineering building, but we don't have Wi-Fi in the Fox Fine Arts. I'm not a Fox Fine Arts student, but I'm a UTEP student and I have classes there too and it's not fair for students who are paying the same tuition and are not getting the same service," Lopez said.

Lopez began by creating the petition on the website change.org, which calls itself “the world’s largest petition platform, empowering people everywhere to create the change they want to see.”

When signing the petition, personal information from the signers is required, helping to prevent tampering with the amount of signatures received.

The petition became a personal project for Lopez. She said the project didn’t receive much support in the senate and SGA.

"I took my iPad and I went to the Fox Fine Arts and I was telling people about this, what we were going to do; that I needed their help and they signed so it was really nice," Lopez said.

"I spent hours in Fox Fine Arts telling people about this and none of the senators really helped me to get this out. They were skeptical of what we could do, so it was really sad," Lopez said.

Lopez said she also used Facebook to circulate the petition and ended up with 528 signatures.

Alvin Garcia, junior media advertising major, saw Lopez’ petition through a post on the SGA Facebook page.

The post included a description of what the petition was aiming to change.

"I had classes in the Fine Arts building and it's hard to get wireless connection so it's kind of hard for students like me who use iPads, laptops (and all that stuff)," Garcia said.

The Fox Fine Arts Center currently has three wireless access points (APs). The Library has the most APs with 44, followed by the Engineering building with 34.

Because of the limited number of APs, students are experiencing slow Internet speed, failed connections or being forced to make multiple attempts to log on to the system.

"It’s frustrating because you couldn’t pay attention. You were messing around with the computer must of the time (rather) than paying attention in class," Garcia said. "We’re in that generation where everyone uses iPads, and other (wireless devices), so that’s a big issue right now."

Lopez said she wants to create a committee for liberal arts students that will give them a channel to have their voices heard on other problems that are occurring, not only at the Fox Fine Arts Center, but around campus.

"(The petition) had a really good response from students, but this was done in November and I don’t want it to take a long time to get approved so the student committee needs to..."

see Wi-Fi on page 6
Haskins’ legacy

Roy Williams with the Kansas Jayhawks in '92.

The '92 team is considered to be the most revered team next to the championship because of its large success in having a winning season and advancing to the Sweet 16 in the NCAA tournament.

The '92 team was the last UTEP basketball team to win a game in the tournament. In his years of success, coach Haskins was nicknamed “The Bear” because of the respect the community had for him and the character he had on the court.

In an interview with ESPN, coach Haskins explained that winning the championship certainly did come with hardships and hate mail from not only white people, but also from black civil rights leaders who said he was exploiting the team.

However, I feel like Haskins’ character came through when he spoke about the basketball arena and the street being named after him, after he was inducted to the hall of fame.

He modestly said that he could not think of something more rewarding, which was characteristic of the coach. All these memories rushed to my mind which was characteristic of the coach.

As a coach Haskins admirer, I find that it is appropriate to have the establishment near UTEP and that it carries his name. Coach Haskins brought a serious understanding of basketball to El Paso. His accomplishments spark newer generations.

The '92 team was the last UTEP basketball to win a game in the tournament.

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The '92 team was the last UTEP basketball to win a game in the tournament.
BY LORAIN WATERS

Don Haskins' coaching career—from 1961 to 1999—left a lasting impression on UTEP’s basketball team and that of the campus itself. With the Haskins House restaurant opening in April, Haskins' legacy will continue to be commemorated in the El Paso community.

Mary Haskins, wife of the late Don Haskins, said that this new restaurant is an exciting opportunity for both El Paso and her family.

"Even where they located it, at the shopping center (across from Luby’s) is so UTEPy, “ Mary Haskins said. “The Bhutanese architecture fits in very well. “

The Haskins House Restaurant will be located at 3800 N. Mesa St.—where Carousel used to be.

"We had problems when we first tried opening this restaurant at the parking garage on Glory Road,” said Steven Haskins, son of the late Don Haskins and collaborator with the Haskins House restaurant. "It didn’t work out because of ventilation so I’m excited to see this take place."

Gerardo Carrion, manager for 30 years in the restaurant business and business partner with the Haskins family, said that they wanted to open a restaurant that was attached to the roots of the El Paso people.

"This restaurant will identify the community," Carrion said. "It will identify what a true legend is and Don Haskins was a true legend."

Carrion said that the restaurant will serve American food with a touch of the Southwest. Serving the usual small, medium and large-sized combos, the restaurant will also offer a size called "The Bear," a nickname given to Don Haskins. The Bear size is a larger portion of food.

Haskins will not be just a sports bar, it will also be a family restaurant. Aside from the televisions placed around the restaurant, there will be a patio for outside dining and a museum dedicated to Don "The Bear" Haskins and El Paso.

"The museum will show citizens of El Paso and others who come to visit who we are and what El Paso stands for," Carrion said. "There will be pictures of tournaments, t-shirts, trophies and mural done by Manuel Pilla who is a teacher here in town."

Haskins House to open in April

“The Bhutanese architecture fits in very well.”

-Mary Haskins

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our view

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Aaron Montes, 747-7446

February 5, 2013

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FOR GEORGINA ARZATE, SOPHOMORE ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE MAJOR, THE CLOSING OF CAROUSEL WAS DUE TO THEIR SLOW PACE OF CUSTOMERS DUE TO THEIR SLOW PACE OF CUSTOMERS BUT THE HASKINS HOUSE RESTAURANT WILL PROVE OTHERWISE.

“I THINK ABOUT SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS, CORPORATE PLACES ARE MY LAST RESORT,” ARZATE SAID.

Steve Haskins said that on top of outside dining, the patio will also be used for a sports expo, smoking, selling memorabilia on Don Haskins and radio stations to broadcast. Having local bands play on the patio is not set in stone, according to Steve Haskins. However, it is something that is in the works and may happen after the restaurant has opened.

“When you walk into the restaurant, there will be a plaque,” Steve Haskins said. "It is something that everyone will be able to see and it will honor him. My dad would be proud of leaving his legacy; I’m really happy for this place and I’m really excited for the whole family to go.”

Lena Winters may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

HALKINS from page 3

“The mural will consist of a collage of pictures taken throughout Don Haskins’ career at UTEP.

“There will be orange and blue all over the restaurant,” Carrion said. “This is the place to be a part of and call home because the people we have hired for this project are those with expertise in UTEP and in the city.”

For Georgina Arzate, sophomore English and American Literature major, the closing of Carousel was due to their slow pace of customers but the Haskins House restaurant will prove otherwise.

“I’m all about supporting local business, corporate places are my last resort,” Arzate said.

Steve Haskins said that on top of outside dining, the patio will also be used for a sports expo, smoking, selling memorabilia on Don Haskins and radio stations to broadcast. Having local bands play on the patio is not set in stone, according to Steve Haskins. However, it is something that is in the works and may happen after the restaurant has opened.

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Lena Winters may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Many people underestimate the arts people, sadly. They don’t think their degrees are worth as much, but they are. We’re the largest college in the university and we can’t be left behind,” Lopez said. “(Students) are paying tuition for a service that’s not getting to them. They’re saying we need to transform, centennial transformation, but we haven’t seen a transformation for a long time.

“Stephen Riter, vice president for information resources and planning, said he was aware of the problem, but didn’t realize the extent of the issues, and had never had a demand for more APs in the Fox Fine Arts Center until now.

“That’s a very unusual building (and) there are two sets of problems over there. The first set of problems is that because it’s concrete, it’s very hard to add or subtract. You have to drill through that concrete and frankly, we don’t know yet how much that is going to cost and we are currently trying to get estimates on the cost for that,” Riter said. “The second is that if you put a transmitter in one of those rooms that’s all concrete, the signal just stays in that room.”

Riter said the day after Lopez presented him with the petition, he sent a team to survey the building. He also said the Fox Fine Arts Center would receive its additional APs by September.

Money for the new APs will come from the tech fee and other funds used to upgrade rooms on campus. Riter said some of that money doesn’t all get spent in a year, so if some is left over, it will be applied to the upgrade.

“Think of how many rooms there are on this campus. We try to survey them and we try to understand what the response in every room is and which rooms people really want Wi-Fi connections. Two years ago, no one was interested. Now, everybody wants them,” Riter said. “We’re at about 98 percent coverage, there’s always going to be some place you forget, but we want to be as close to 100 percent as you can get.”

Riter said the Fox Fine Arts Center is the only trouble spot he knows of right now and the majority of Wi-Fi usage occurs at the library and UGLC, adding that the entire campus is going to need upgrading over the next few years because of the high volume of connections occurring.

“Two or three years ago, nobody thought about this and when we put all this stuff in, we weren’t really sure who would use it and we thought we had enough capacity for many years, but I don’t think anybody’s anticipated the growth of mobile (devices). We’re anticipating much more rapid growth over the next few years and we’re going to try to stay ahead of that growth,” Riter said.

Sabrina Nuñez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
Sex Column

No STDs for midterms

BY EILEEN LOZANO

No STDs for midterms

An art assistant looks over a gallery wall to decide what can be placed for viewing. The art work was displayed at the Loft Light Studio as part of the Last Thursdays event in downtown El Paso.

BY MARYLEN ALEMAN

Feature

Glee Club takes over UTEP students

BY LEONARDO MONTÁREZ

Glee Club is different than choir, which is more for vocal majors, McMillan said. "Glee Club is for anyone that (wants) to sing, and the pieces are easier," McMillan said. "But choir is different, they look more into more complicated pieces of music and it's a mixed gender choir."

McMillan said that the Glee Club does not accept people during the semester but they welcome every student who wants to be a part of it. "You cannot register during the semester and the only fee is tuition," McMillan said. And we have two shows for the semester and maybe more."
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Angelo Soto proves that work does not have to cut into the way one dresses.

Angelo Soto, freshman creative writing major, knows how to take his outfit from day to night. Inspired by his favorite fashion blogs, Soto usually comes to school dressed for work but that does not stop him from making his outfit stand out. Although he gets most of his clothes from Dillard’s, where he works, he still knows where and how to get a good looking and high-end outfit for any occasion. Soto shared with The Prospector about his fashion sense.

Q: How would you describe your style?
A: I think it is very minimal and work appropriate. I dress as if I am going to work everyday so I always look decent. It is nothing too crazy, just a bunch of basics put together and then you get something nice.

Q: Where do you get your inspiration?
A: Mostly the Internet, like fashion blogs and stuff. Just because most of those people are normal people and know how to make an outfit look good.

Q: What influenced you to wear this outfit?
A: Well I have to go to work today so I am wearing a little bit of my work attire. I work at BCBG inside of Dillard’s and this is from there so I wore it.

Q: Where do you like to shop?
A: Right now Dillard’s because I do get a discount so that is where I usually am. Dillard’s has it all like shoes, undergarments and clothes and it is all really nice. I never have to really leave the building.
La Parada offers new ways of experiencing music

BY OSCAR GARZA
The Prospector

La Parada, an event held at the historic San Carlos Building the first Friday of every month, offers the public a chance to see the best of the local music scene and art vendors.

Roberto Claudio, one of the organizers/resident DJs behind the event, said that the idea originated in 2010 between a group of people involved with downtown buildings looking to develop a music event.

“We’re going to be celebrating our third anniversary this year,” Claudio said. “We’re trying to be surprising with the reveal.”

Claudio said that one of the reasons why La Parada has enjoyed success is because of its diversity and versatility.

“We’re not just a certain style but we want to help not only local music and we want to get the best that El Paso has to offer,” Claudio said. “At heart, we’re completely open to all music trends. Everything is welcome.”

“We follow the music scene, we love music and we want to get the best that El Paso has to offer,” Claudio said. “At heart, we’re completely open to all styles. Everything is welcome.”

Sergio Garcia, guitarist for L. I. G. R. E., said that La Parada provides a great venue for artists. With the appropriate setting and attitude to exhibit local talent.

“We had seen the advertisements for it some time ago," Garcia said. “Recently we got a call from them and told us that we had the opportunity to present ourselves at La Parada and so we took it without hesitation.”

Garcia said that the support for local talent is one of the major draws of La Parada. He said they want to help not only local music but also artisans.

“We really enjoyed it a lot, we had a lot of people and it’s what I liked," Garcia said. “It’s hard to accomplish that here, getting a lot of people to attend, and with this event the combination of music and the art really brought a lot of people. And since it’s once a month I feel like it makes the event bigger.”

Rebekah Grado, graduate English and American literature student, heard about La Parada by word of mouth and she said the event has created a sense of appreciation for people.

“(Poply) look forward to the music first, but they know they will get a great crowd to mix with, tables with displays by great local artisans in a location,” Grado said. “My favorite aspect is always the music.”

Grado said that the blend of music and artisans gives the event a unique “El Paso flair” that separate it from other showcases.

“Their location in the historic San Carlos Building puts you in the heart of Downtown El Paso. They also draw the best music and artists that El Paso has to offer,” Grado said. “The intersection of setting and culture allows La Parada to boast something no other showcase can.”

The event was held the last Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 11 p.m. downtown.
Spring Break Concert Series

MARCH 15
FOX Radio: Radio La Chusma, Reggae/Rock

MARCH 16
KLAA: Biscuit Roller, New Rock

MARCH 17
KELP/KLOVE: 3-0, Dynamic; 180, Worship Team-Christian Rock

MARCH 19
KSLI: Sun City Sound, modern rock

MARCH 20
FOX Radio: Mexikan, Latino/Rock

MARCH 21
KPRR (Power 102): Midnight Response, DJ

MARCH 22
KHEF MY (Y-96): We Country, country

FASHION from page 8
Q: What is your favorite clothing brand?
A: I like Acne because they never really disappoint me. A lot of other brands, there are times when I don't really know what to care doing, but Acne always has the same consistent, good quality. You cannot find it here so you have to go online but they are from Sweden. It is high end but it is not super ridiculous. It's like in the hundreds but it is still worth it.
Q: Why do you like to dress up for school?
A: I dress up for school because I usually work after so it is easier for me to come already prepared instead of having to get ready again. It is easier to pick one outfit that is going to work for everyday and every occasion. If I don't work I will usually still wear slacks, nice shoes and a sweater but if I work I will wear an undershirt with it.
Q: Has fashion always been a part of your life?
A: Yes, because it is available to me. I mean, it is available to everyone but it is has been around since I was young.
Q: Do you have any fashion advice for men?
A: Wear whatever you want. Don't follow what everyone else is doing. Whatever any macho man is doing, you don't need to do that to seem so masculine.

Ilenia Cano may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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The Glee Club practices various songs, refining their musical talents while still having an enjoyable experience.

Glee Club students have enjoyed being part of the choir. Such is the case for students Angel Otero, musical theory and composition freshman, and Jesus Fuentes, commercial music freshman, who are undergoing their second semester with the club.

"I began my college life and I was part of Glee Club already," Fuentes said. "I'm part of bass section.

Puentes said that even though not all of them are music majors, they all feel good to be part of the club.

"It is really fun to be part of a group where we all share something in common and that is the love for music," Fuentes said. According to Fuentes, Glee Club has helped him improve his voice and he has developed his vocal skills.

"Glee Club has done a lot for me, it helped me with my ear training and it forces me to be on tune for the singing," Fuentes said. "Oh, Dr. McMillian always tries to get the best sound possible for all of us." 

Although Otero is in his second semester at the Glee Club, he is still amazed by the sound of the choir.

"We are (a) big group, so naturally you would expect a good sound to come out of it all," Otero said. "But for an all-male choir, the different voices, and all the fun music, it is just great."

Otero had never previously taken vocal lessons.

"I never pictured myself singing, it was something I really never thought of," Otero said. "But Glee Club made it easier, and that's the thing, when we perform we do not do it alone, we do it as a choir, and we just have fun, that's how it is."
The Miners will head into the conference tournament with a regular season conference record of 17-13.

Men's Basketball
BY AUDREY WESTCOTT
The Prospector

After beating Southern Methodist University 76-63, the UTEP men's basketball team will make it eighth appearance in the Conference USA Championship tournament this year on March 13 at Tulsa, Okla.

"This is really when the season gets fun," said head coach Tim Floyd. "It's really why you coach and get into it, and I know that there are 12 other teams saying the same thing right now. A lot of it gets down to match ups, how you feel about playing against the guys that you are playing against, who is playing well during the tournament, and I feel good about all those things.

The Miners, who finished their regular season 17-13, were able to secure themselves as the third seed, earning them a bye for the champi- ons first round of games. UTEP'S first game will be in the tournament quarterfinals at 1:30 p.m. on March 14 in the BOK Center, where they will either face No. 6 Houston (18-11) or No. 11 Rice (25-25).

In the regular season, UTEP tied its season games with Houston, losing at Hofheinz Pavillion 79-61 and winning at the Don Haskins Center 63-53. The Miners beat Rice, in both season games with a 65-53 victory in El Paso and a 65-75 triumph in Houston.

"You can never be completely satisfied with where your team ends up on the bracket," Floyd said. "We're on one side of the bracket we are facing a talented team, we are on the other side, we're going to face another talented team. They all look good this time of year. Everyone is capable of beating everyone at this point. Outside of Memphis, each team is equally compatible and there is not much difference between them.

The winner will advance to the semifinals at 7 p.m. March 15.

Last year in the 2012 C-USA championship, the Miners won their first round game against Houston 87-72 in overtime, but were eliminated in the quarterfinals with their 65-67 loss to Memphis.

"I feel we have come along as a team, and we are ready to play," said sophomore forward, Julian Washburn. "From my first time playing in a Conference USA Championship last year, I learned that it is a completely different atmosphere from regular season. No one really has a home court advantage, and you have to take care of the ball more than you would in a regular game, and treat every possession like it is your last one.

With each team having already played one another at least once in the regular season, they are more acquainted with one another's playing technique, requiring each of them to play that much harder to win.

For the Miners, it will be defense that will keep them ahead of the game against their opponents.

With the number one scoring defense in the league with 60.5 ppg, UTEP has been able to hold their opponents field goal percentage to an average of 45.1 points over the last seven games.

"We are just going to keep working on our defense and moving the ball," said sophomore forward Cedrick Lang. "We have found what works best for us when the ball is moving. We get in extra lay ups and better looks at the court, but we have to take this tournament one game at a time. You cannot overlook anyone in this tournament. All we can do is show up to this game prepared and play your best because anything can happen on any night."

If the Miners win the C-USA championship, they will secure themselves a spot in the NCAA tournament, which will begin next week, after all conference championships have been played.

The 2013 Championship, which consists of nine games among all teams part of Conference USA, kicks off March 13, with three games, followed by three more games on March 14, two on March 15, and the final game on March 16.

Audrey Westcott may be reached at the prospector@utep.edu.

Women’s Basketball
BY ALBERT GAMBOA
The Prospector

After a grueling 30-game schedule, the women's basketball team will play to get a shot to be in the big dance, the NCAA Tournament. The only way to guarantee a spot is to win their conference tournament which begins March 13 in Tulsa, Okla.

"In the tournament anything can happen, it's a brand new season for us and coming off a good win it's great," said junior forward Kayla Thornton. "We're going to take a lot of hard work, the way we played against Tulane, that's how we're going to have to play for four games.

UTEP comes into the conference tournament as a confident fifth seed. The Miners started off the season with two key players going down with ACL tears, but that did not stop them from achieving a school record 17-2 start. From there it went downhill as another player suffered an ACL injury and the Miners lost seven of their last 10 games of the regular season.

The final two games brought a glimpse of hope for the team, but they lost by two points against the top seeded team in C-USA, the SMU Mustangs on the road. They then caught fire on senior night and took care of the second best team in C-USA, the Tulane Green Wave in a bout to reach a 20 win season.

When the Miners start hitting their shots, as they did against Tulane, they are tough to beat, but it all starts with their two best players, senior center Anete Steinberga and Thornton getting into a rhythm. Both received All Conference honors for their play, being the leading scorer's for the team combining for 30 points a game, Steinberga was acknowledged first team and Thornton second team votes.

"It was a great accomplishment, they're both really hard working ladies, their work ethic is great, they're very competitive and they're both very deserving on the award," said head coach Keitha Adams.

Steinberga, the only healthy senior on the team, will be playing in her last U-CTXA tournament as a Miner.

"That's motivated me to go harder in the game and just give my all, give more than I have," Steinberga said.

Junior guard, Kelli Willingham and sophomore guard, Chriasha Parker will try to be the x-factors during the tournament for UTEP, in case Steinberga or Thornton struggle in a game.

Though they don't have much depth on the bench, freshmen guard Cameasha Turner, provides a defensive spark as well as good 3-point shooting.

"They'll face off against the lowest seed in C-USA the Marshall Thundering Herd, who finished with just three wins in conference play and failed to reach double digit wins overall. The Herd ended the regular season on a four-game losing streak, but one of the wins Marshall got this season was against UTEP in a 59-47 match that featured 10 three pointers from the Herd.

UTEP is the best team in C-USA in defensive field goal percentage with 34 percent, but is 10th in defensive 3-point field goal percentage giving up 31 percent. The Miners main key is to contest the 3-point shot for the remaining games.

"We're going to have to guard, we're going to have to play much better and hopefully hit shots," Adams said. "I'm excited to play this game obviously we hope we play them better than when we played them in Marshall.

If the Miners defeat Marshall they'll face off against the 4th seeded UAB Blazers who earned a bye with nine conference wins, including one against the Miners that gave UTEP their first loss at the Don Haskins Center.

SMU, the top team in C-USA at 12-4, is the number one seed and will compete against the lowest seed to make it out of day one. The Mustangs come into the tournament as the most efficient 3-point shooting team and second best top scoring team in conference thanks to junior guard Keena Mays leading the team in scoring with 18.6 ppg.

SMU, Tulane, East Carolina and UAB all finished in the top four in C-USA. The Miners may have to beat three of those teams to clinch their second consecutive NCAA tournament appearance.

Albert Gamboa may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
Hockey

BY PAUL REYNOSO

The Prospector

Hockey may not be a hot commod-
it-y in El Paso these days, but on a
Tuesday or Thursday evening at the
Sierra Providence Events Center, you
will find a group of UTEP students
playing the game they love.

The UTEP Ice Hockey Club was cre-
at ed two years ago by Jorge Villegas,
junior industrial engineering major,
along with his cousin Mario Ramirez,
a senior mechanical engineer.

“Mario and I started this thing a
couple of years ago. It’s been tough,
but it’s going,” Villegas said.

Villegas said that the intent in cre-
ating the hockey club was to raise in-
terest in the sport around UTEP and
in the city. He said that in order for
UTEP for Ice Hockey to grow at UTEP,
the club has to be officially sanctioned
by the school.

According to Cesar Hernandez
Jr., recreational sports specialist at
UTEP, the club has to be a student
organization for more than a year to
receive approval by the Recreational
Sports Department.

“What we do is get some preference
from Student Development, and af-
ter that we make the decision if they
 complying with all our requests that we
ask, then we pretty much can work
with that,” Hernandez said.

Currently, the UTEP Ice Hockey
Club is not officially sanctioned as a
club at the university. Hernandez said
that the proper paperwork needs to
be turned in before they can proceed.

Villegas said the club is currently
working on meeting with an on-cam-
pus advisor to help the club organize
to become an official club. Then they
could use the UTEP Miners’ name and
not in a non-monetary way. “We’re in
the process of getting a new president,
getting new everything,” Villegas said.

“I just want to establish everyone in
their positions and from there we’ll
take it and start the process.”

The hockey team is currently com-
prised of 10 to 13 players, all of whom
are UTEP students or faculty and
staff. Anyone that wishes to partici-
pate in the hockey club must be cur-
rently enrolled in school and present
a proper UTEP ID.

The club competes mostly against
teams from the El Paso Hockey As-
sociation, which plays Mondays
through Thursdays. According to
Villegas, this competition is mostly
just for fun, but there are plans for the
cub to become part of an official
competitive league when the club be-
comes sanctioned by UTEP.

“We want to be part of the ACHA
(American Collegiate Hockey Associa-
tion) Division II. So that’s another goal.
that’s like our mid-term goal,” Villegas
said. “So, hopefully, within a year down
the road we’ll be able to do that”

The ACHA has been around since
1991. It functions mainly to support
quality, unity and regulation of in-
tercollegiate hockey programs in the
United States. The ACHA is made up
of five divisions (Men’s Division I, 2
and 3; Women’s Division I and 2). The
organization is made up of more than
400 teams from across the nation.
Center Edgar Reyes, a junior met-
allurgical engineering major, said he
was motivated to join UTEP’s first
hockey club because of his experi-
ences in the sport growing up.

“I’ve been playing pretty much my
whole life since I was a child,” Reyes
said. “This is my hobby. This is what I
like to do on my free time.”

Reyes, who has been with the club
since the beginning, said that players
usually bring their own equipment to
use during practice and play. He also
said he would like to see the hockey
club get more followers and exposure
through social media sites such as
Facebook and Twitter.

Technology and training for UTEP’s
hockey club is primarily overseen by
couch Norm Thilits, a Canadian cur-
rently the El Paso Rhinos’ trainer.
When coach Thilits is not around to
train UTEP’s hockey club, players
from the El Paso Rhinos will help the
team members during their practices.
Reyes said the team practices usually
consist of skating, passing and work-
 ing as a team. Thilits, who has had
more than 45 years of experience in
coaching and playing hockey, said that
UTEP’s hockey club could help further
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Anyone interested may reach the
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