The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. - Eleanor Roosevelt

PHOTO BY MICHAELA ROMAN, DESIGN BY JACOBO DE LA ROSA, THE PROSPECTOR
Graduation is more than just a tassel

BY LORAIN AMBROCIO

The Prospector

When I was 15, I took a driver’s education class to get my driver’s permit—nothing out of the ordinary there.

Yet, my driving instructor was anything but ordinary. In between rants on shoes and what snacks were best to eat, this El Paso-loving, Brussels-sprout-eating veteran said something in one of the classes that I have kept going back to during my four-and-a-half years at UTEP.

“Graduating high school is something you’re supposed to do, but graduating from a university or college, that’s an accomplishment,” he said.

At first, I thought he was wrong. Going to college should also be something that you’re supposed to do, especially with today’s competitive mentality among all graduates.

This mentality I’m talking about is the one instilled implicitly from day one of classes—if you don’t have at least a bachelor’s degree when you apply for a job, you won’t get it or be as successful as your degree-bearing colleagues.

But then I progressed in my undergraduate career and my own mentality began to shift.

Getting a full-time job at The Prospector, double majoring in psychology and journalism, joining honors organizations, taking reading and writing-intensive courses, getting married and becoming pregnant in the middle of all of it… I’m graduating, and it feels like a breath of fresh air.

I can see what that crazy driving instructor was talking about. Maybe he wasn’t so crazy after all.

It truly is an accomplishment to be graduating this semester from UTEP—working those long nights during my four-and-a-half years at UTEP—working those long nights during my four-and-a-half years at UTEP.

Graduation is more than just a tassel.

SPEAK YOUR MIND

Letters will be edited for clarity and brevity. Letters over 250 words are subject to editing to fit available space. Please include full name, street address and telephone number and e-mail address, plus major, classification and/or title if applicable.

Write to 105 E. Union, e-mail theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com, call 747-7477 or fax to 747-8031.

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On a graduation day, the day is beautiful, and the sun is shining all around the Miners’ campus. Young students are all around the campus. Youth, pride and happiness share the scene with the old dusty mountains that surround the Sun Bowl.

Young students that have made it to graduation are seen as models to follow by their younger siblings. The young students’ parents have a face that denotes pride. All this is happening on a graduation day.

Pictures of young faces are all around the campus: youth of the future of a nation, the future of the world. There are no images of elder, aged or old students on campus, publicity or campus images. All this happens in the nation that is known as the champion of democracy.

The message seems to be that education is for the young only, and he who dares to challenge it would be treated accordingly. His or her life as a student will be the life of a ‘stinky’— ignored and pissed. Therefore, only few dare to challenge, but who misses an old face on a graduation day when happiness is all around?”

The above could be seen as fiction, a part of a novel or a short story, but actually, this is part of reality. At UTEP, there are no images of old students or non-traditional students – as some use to name those students.

Since 2012, the year that I started taking classes at UTEP, I noticed the lack of old students’ images at UTEP. This creates an impression that old students do not exist at UTEP.

One of the issues the old students have to face, is a of acceptance, when the old student applies for scholarships, there may be an age requirement. If the student is older than 30 years, he or she could be disqualified.

One of the arguments of the Office of Scholarships is that the persons or corporations that offer the scholarships apply their own requirements and nothing can be done about it. However, the fact that the UTEP’s official images ignore the old or aged students creates a false image. It creates the image that the old students do not exist at UTEP. UTEP does not recognize old students as students and old students are not part of UTEP diversity.

Therefore, the people who offer the scholarships don’t include old people as their recipients. They do not see them. UTEP should promote diversity.

All students regardless of their race, gender, religion, sexual orientation and/or disability should have the same opportunity to succeed in their academic careers even old or aged students, or non-traditional students.

UTEP is celebrating 100 years, 1914-2014, a centennial celebration and 100 years of ignoring the old or aged student.

Raul Rodriguez, a 58-year-old proud UTEP student.

LETTERTOTHEEDITOR
New report ranks best and worst jobs of the year

BY AMANDA GUILLEN

For some students, deciding on which career path to go down can be a rough decision. Careercast.com has been ranking the best and worst jobs of the year for 27 years. The report ranks 200 jobs from best to worst based on three percentage components: work environments, stress and hiring outlook. For the 2015 report, an actuary came in at number one, and the worst job was a newspaper reporter, which ranked at 200.

Some UTEP alumni and students realized that the degree that they chose to pursue was ranked fairly high on the list or at the bottom. Anuar Jauregui graduated from UTEP Cum Laude in 2012 with a bachelor’s degree in computer science. Jauregui works for ExxonMobil in Houston and said that his job is a hybrid of both software engineering, which ranked eighth, and a computer systems analyst, which ranked 10th.

Jauregui said that when looking over the rankings, he agreed that they were, for the most part, accurate. Jauregui said that when looking over the rankings, he agreed that they were, for the most part, accurate. For the 2015 report, an actuary came in at number one, and the worst job was a newspaper reporter, which ranked at 200.

I can definitely agree with the levels indicated in the ranking. The work environment in the computer systems field varies greatly depending on the company. Most computer systems work environments are your typical nine to five office cubicle work spaces,” Jauregui said. “But in bigger companies, employees in computer systems are also part of the bigger corporate environment of the business and it can be very comfortable.”

The report was initially intended to guide students down the right path when it came to turning their career dreams into realities, along with helping others who are looking for a change in their career to make a smart transition for their future. Jauregui’s childhood dream is what led him to ultimately choose computer science as his degree of choice.

“I chose this career path originally because I wanted to design video games when I was little, and when I began my research into what degrees I needed, I found that an actual game design degree was too far and too expensive for a fresh high school graduate,” he said. “But after digging a bit more, I found out that a computer science degree would also give me all the necessary skills for my childhood dream.”

After going through college and an internship with NASA, Jauregui’s interests widened and he was able to see many different opportunities available in many different fields.

“Which led to many job interviews, which led to several offers, and in the end, I just chose the one that best matched my interests,” Jauregui said.

Some students chose to attend graduate school instead of going straight into the job force. UTEP alumna Esmirna Corona graduated with a bachelor’s degree in social work in 2014. She attends UT Austin, where she is working toward obtaining her master’s degree in clinical social work.

A social worker ranked 70th on the report. Unlike Jauregui, Corona didn’t think the ranking was accurate.

“I’m happy social work has a good rank, but a tad disappointed that it wasn’t higher on the list,” Corona said. “Although social work is a demanding career, it also gives a lot of satisfaction and happiness.”

Corona said that social workers work with people, which creates a different dynamic to the working environment.

“As social workers, we cannot follow a specific ‘guideline’ to use in our work because every person is unique and different,” she said. “Therefore, social workers need to modify every intervention in a manner that will be culturally sensitive and appropriate to the individual.”

Damaris Reyes, senior multimedia journalism major, plans on pursuing a career in journalism. Journalism professions ranked fairly low on the list, with a photojournalist ranking 195th, a broadcaster at 196th and a newspaper reporter at 200th. When looking at the rankings, Reyes said that she uses it as motivation.

“Honestly, I think it’s a bummer to hear such things, especially when one is pursuing such a career,” Reyes said. “As far as if it scares me, it depends.”

Reyes said that she can either see it as a threat to her career or she can use it as encouragement to push her to be better.

“I believe that it’s not the things that make the people, but the people who make the things,” Reyes said.

UTEP alumni Jauregui and Corona left this year’s graduating seniors with some advice.

“Stay strong in your studying. Your grades matter a lot if you want to get a shot at the really big, well-paying, competitive positions,” Jauregui said. “Be involved, join several extra-curricular organizations like Greek life, community service clubs, or any particular organization that spikes your interest, and become a leader in them.”

For Corona it is about enjoying college life and taking a step back to reflect.

“Enjoy every moment of your undergraduate and graduate education. Learn everything, read everything, but most importantly be happy and passionate in whatever you are doing,” Corona said. “Graduate school can be challenging. Sometimes you ask yourself, with the largest coffee mug in hand, ‘why did I do this to myself?’

Corona said that if you are doing something that you are passionate about, the sacrifices will be worth it.

“At the end of the day, that will be your motivation to keep going,” Corona said.

Amanda Guillen may be reached at theprospectordaily@gmail.com.
Advertising and marketing panelists inspire students at conference

BY JOSE SOTO
The Prospector

Advertising and marketing majors at UTEP had the opportunity to gain insight and knowledge from some experts in the field on Thursday.

Professionals from both fields gave presentations as part of a panel discussion that aimed to help UTEP students understand what to expect from working for an agency and better prepare them for future endeavors.

The El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center hosted “Diving Deep: An In-Depth Look at Agency Life,” an event sponsored by the Advertising Agency of El Paso. It offered the attendees three different panels: creative, account services and non-profit clients.

The panelists talked about new trends in the creative process of the field, how to track down clients, what it is like to work with a non-profit agency and other topics.

“Diving Deep” started off with a luncheon. Shortly after, a speech was given by guest speaker Humbo Garza, content producer for Culturalspan Marketing. Garza has developed regional, national and international campaigns both in English and Spanish for companies such as Miller Coors, Hershey’s, Frito-Lay, Pepsi and many more.

He began his career in 2003 as a junior copywriter with an advertising agency in Monterrey, Mexico.

Garza said he mainly wants for students to know that finding your niche within the field is important for your career.

“It’s okay to switch between career paths in the advertising and marketing field as you find what works best for you,” Garza said. “I dabbled with different companies and creative processes until I found what I liked.”

Garza said it is also important for the Hispanic students to realize that the Latino audience is a “driving force” in the field.

“There is a great importance that Latinos have in America,” Garza said. “Before, campaigning for companies meant to develop an Americanized one and then develop a different one for Latino countries branching out of the same campaign, but customized.”

Garza said that companies now prefer to campaign for a globalized, integrated market.

“We call it ‘total market approach,’” Garza said. “That means a well-developed marketing campaign for all ethnicities, largely for Latinos.”

UTEP is composed of a largely Hispanic community, which Garza said is an asset for advertising and marketing students because they get a feel of what it is to appeal to both populations.

Garza said internships are essential to not only further develop your skills, but also to land a job in the field.

Other panelist included Armando Alvarez, creative director and co-founder of Viva-Impulse Creative Company, Juan Carlos Hernandez, senior director at Culturalspan Marketing and Tony Casas, creative director.

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Students awarded scholarships to study abroad

BY JULIA HETTINGER | The Prospector

This semester, a few UTEP students were awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad. The scholarship is awarded to more than 2,700 students every semester nationwide. The scholarship is open to undergraduate students who intend to study abroad and demonstrate a positive scholarly record, as well as a financial need. The scholarship’s purpose is to aid students every semester nationwide to study abroad by providing them with the funds they need.

April Rumgay, senior political science major, was awarded $5,000 to study in Turkey with an additional $3,000 supplement to study the Turkish language during her study abroad trip this summer. Rumgay said studying abroad will help students gain independence and improve their work ethic. “It’s no secret that studying abroad will enhance my educational and professional opportunities,” Rumgay said. “I don’t underestimate the value of sharing my experience in Turkey.”

Rumgay hopes her experience in Turkey inspires her friends and family. “I’m more interested in considering the legacy that I can leave with my family, local community, and country,” Rumgay said. “It could inspire my family, empower my community and encourage more Americans to become global citizens.”

While in Turkey, Rumgay said she wants to leave a positive impression on the Turkish community. “I hope to present an image of the U.S. outside of foreign policy and outreach,” Rumgay said. Students at UTEP said they would study abroad if given the chance. Josh De Luca, sophomore microbiology major, said if he could study abroad, he would study somewhere in the United Kingdom. “I’d be away from home, but I would still feel a connection,” De Luca said.

“Studying abroad is an amazing opportunity—to be exposed to a new culture and way of life,” De Luca said. “It’s definitely a good way to expand your experience.” Diego Portillo, senior graphic design and advertising major, said the event gave a lot of useful tips for students. Portillo is also the president of the Student Advertising Federation. “It’s definitely a good way to expand your experience,” Portillo said. “In this field, it’s all about having experience and networking. This event helped give students the access to both.”

“I would want to study and complete research in microbiology.” Although he most likely will not study abroad while at UTEP, he said it is still a great thing for students to do.

“It’s no secret that studying abroad will enhance my educational and professional opportunities. I don’t underestimate the value of sharing my experience in Turkey.”

Senior political science major, April Rumgay was awarded $5,000 to study in Turkey with an additional $3,000 supplement to study the Turkish language during her study abroad trip this summer.
Robert Vega escapes ‘the pits of hell’ to graduate this spring

BY ALONSO MORENO

Senior commercial music major, Robert Vega will be graduating at this year’s spring commencement despite previous setbacks such as spending time in prison.

His school experience almost sounds like something straight out of a novel—the typical kid with an untapped potential who gets straight As, only to be hampered by a lack of motivation, causing him to become the poorest behaved child in the classroom.

Each day presents a new beginning, because no matter how bad your day is it will eventually end. You will go to bed, a new day will rise and with it, a new hope.

“Naci para los chingasos (I was born to fight),” Vega said. By the time I came to live in El Paso, I was older and the then prominent gang lifestyle was very interesting to me. I would go up to entire groups of people and tell them I could take them all on. El Monje (the monk), as he was named by his fellow gang members due to his shaved head and proficiency with martial arts, would spend the following years in a haze of alcoholism, fights and crime, with one incident that still plays in his mind with perfect clarity.

“One day a couple of friends and I wanted to drive around, but we didn’t have a vehicle. My mother obviously didn’t lend me the car, so I just decided then and there that we would go steal a car,” Vega said. “We went to a 7-Eleven to scope out the cars. After sometime, eventually a couple finally pulled up with a truck and next thing you know I am telling the lady to hand over the keys. It was a carjacking.”

Although he was eventually caught, Vega managed to come out of the event relatively unscathed as he avoided prison time because the lady refused to press charges. This would serve as warning of what was to come in the future.

As the life style began to take a toll on him, Vega decided to renounce his gangster days and try to live a calm life. However it all changed in October 1999, when Vega was charged with intoxicated manslaughter with a vehicle.

“I was coming back with some friends from a reception,” Vega said. “There was a loud thud, I was in shock and my friend just said, ‘I think you hit someone.’”

The subsequent trial would end with Vega being convicted and becoming another statistic for the prison system.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the inmate population for 2013 was about 2,228,424, which leaves the U.S. in first place in the world for the highest prison population. In Texas alone, there are over 150,000 convicted offenders, with El Paso being responsible for 2,210 of them.

Perhaps even more impressive than the incarceration numbers is the rate of recidivism, which shows that 76 percent of released prisoners are arrested within five years of release for a new crime.

“There is a problem with not only Texas, but with the U.S. penal system as well,” Vega said. “I was able to beat the odds and not only make it out, but actually turn my life around.”

From the many stories that Vega shares about his time in prison and solitary confinement, the one that stands out the most is the actual way he lived.

“It was a very small cell, you could maybe walk three or four steps before you hit the wall, the bathroom or the bed. You live without anything, just four walls and reading material,” Vega said. “I remember that there was a small window that I could see from my cell, and I would just imagine how nice it would feel to be out and feel the wind.”

Vega credits faith for helping him survive the ordeal and devoting himself to a higher purpose in order to be able to escape sane from his personal hell.

On October 2008, Vega was released from prison into a new world—now at age 31 he had not only missed 20s, but had missed the technological boom as well.

“When I went in, people still used beepers, now everyone had cell phones,” Vega said. “To paint a better picture, I immediately went into UTEP following my release, and I remember that one of my first days, my professor asked us to look up a song on the Internet. I raised my hand and asked what the Internet was.”

Much has changed from those days, and now Vega has his sights firmly set on his goal to change the world with his music. As he says, he was given a second chance to use his gifts for the world.

Not only does he want to continue to perform, but he also wishes to establish his own production studio in order to publish his own music as well harness the endless potential he sees in El Paso.

When asked if he had any advice for people who might be struggling with life or school Vega said, “Each day presents a new beginning, because no matter how bad your day is it will eventually end. You will go to bed, a new day will rise and with it, new hope. If you are positive, you can and will be able to come out of your problems.”

Alamo Moreno may be reached at theprospectordailynews@gmail.com.

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What are you going to miss about UTEP?

ADRIAN ALMANZA
Senior mechanical engineering major
“I will miss hanging out on campus.”

DINA CHAGOYAN
Senior English and American Literature major
“I will miss UTEP because it is a place where we can find new friends and new job opportunities. I found that I made many memories working at UTEP and made new friends by working here.”

RICARDO ROMAN
Senior kinesiology major
“Since I work around athletics, I’m going to miss the football and basketball games the most.”

ADRIAN ALMANZA
Senior mechanical engineering major
“I will miss hanging out on campus.”

MARISSA YANEZ
Senior math major
“I am going to miss UTEP because I enjoy the friendly atmosphere, and I will miss out on the beautiful Centennial Plaza.”

VICTOR VALESSER
Senior digital media production major
“I will miss the easy going learning habitat and it’s available faculty.”

CECILIA VALENCE
Senior bilingual education major
“I’ll miss the people, my friends and the college life in general.”

MIRAYA MONTIEL
Senior multidisciplinary studies
“Probably the dorm life and watching the games.”

MEGAN FUENTES
Senior marketing major
“The coffee from the library. But mostly, I’m going to miss seeing my friends everyday. I’ve made life-long friends in these last few years and all of us are going in different directions.”

ROBERT VASQUEZ
Senior commercial music major
“The constant learning experience that you have to go through everyday.”

ABIGAIL ROMERO
Senior media advertising and graphic design major
“I’m going to miss the student life and the people of the Hispanic environment from Juarez.”

RUBEN RIVERA
Senior electrical engineering major
“The UTEP Rec Center because I like to swim, it’s cool.”

LEONARDO MONTANEZ
Senior creative writing major
“Probably the campus, maybe some teachers, not all of them, and the mates I made here.”

NATHAN BLACK
Senior music major
“I’m going to miss how accessible UTEP is and how limitless it is to do things here.”

DINA CHAGOYAN
Senior English and American Literature major
“I will definitely miss UTEP, especially it’s beautiful campus.”

MUNIR BUHAYA
Senior microbiology major
“Yes, I will definitely miss UTEP, especially it’s beautiful campus.”

AMY PADILLA
Senior operations and supply chain management major
“I will miss having constant homework assignments, studying for numerous exams and all the pressure associated with finals.”

MIRAYA MONTIEL
Senior multidisciplinary studies
“Probably the dorm life and watching the games.”

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MARIA RIVERO
Senior finance major
“I will miss the events, such as basketball games as well as the student life.”

RICARDO BURCIAGA
Senior history major
“I am going to miss all the people here, such as my classmates and friends.”

MICHAELA ROMAN
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Traditional breakfast grows with new location and activities

BY JOSE SOTO
The Prospector

As the demanding finals week comes across campus, a UTEP tradition will continue to relieve students from grueling due dates and exams, at least for one night. Students will be able to enjoy from an array of activities, free food, entertainment and quiet study spaces as the event expands this year and changes location.

Those who will attend Up All Night: Midnight Breakfast, the semi-annual tradition on campus, will have the opportunity to experience the expansion of the festivities as it moves to the Union Building East on Tuesday, May 12, from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. Previously, the event was held at the Natural Gas Conference Center.

The traditional breakfast will continue to be served at midnight on the second floor. This year, new additions include a relaxation room with free yoga and meditation sessions, a stress-free room with free coloring and Play-Doh and a screening of the stress-free room with free coloring and Play-Doh and a screening of the old film Old School.

Holes from midnight to 9 a.m. and free shirts for the first 100 students. Tony Johannsen, a senior accounting major, said he will be attending the event since he hasn’t made it to any of the previous ones.

“Whether I go with friends or go alone, I hope to network socially,” Johannsen said. “Having a good time and making new friends is what it is all about. You can never have too many friends and acquaintances.” Johannsen said he has heard the environment of Midnight Breakfast is what makes it as popular as it is.

“From what I’ve heard, it does help with the stress of finals,” Johannsen said. “It is good, wholesome fun in a safe environment with other students that have the same goal: to wind down and be care free for at least a couple of hours.”

Eduardo Ochoa, a senior criminal justice major, will also be attending. He said the event if a good way for him to take a break from studying for finals.

“It’s a great way for me and my friends to do things other than study,” Ochoa said. “It’s a peaceful experience with absolutely no drama.”

Ochoa said the event doesn’t necessarily help students during finals week, but the free food does help college students get a decent meal.

“From what I’ve heard, it does help,” Ochoa said. “It used to be only from eleven to about one o’clock. Now, it’s been extended for over a longer period of time. That shows how popular the event has been over the last couple of years. This years additions are very exciting.”

Marshburn said some volunteers are the same ones that volunteered at the first one in 1991, that was hosted at the Natural Gas Conference Center because it is close to Kelly Hall, which once was a residency hall with an easy path for students to walk.

Irma Nicole Aguilar, director at the Offices of Student Life, said recent changes around campus prompted the planning committee to change the location.

“Our student demographics have changed and we recognize everyone comes with different methods of studying,” Aguilar said. “Students may seek opportunities to take a break and relieve stress during this time. We want to offer additional services and cater to a broader range of students. The Union Building serves as the perfect location to offer a variety of services to our students and they deserve it.”

“This event is definitely on its way to become larger than it has been in the past,” Aguilar said. “The expansion of this event was done with the hope that more students will be interested in participating in a campus tradition which they may not have been part of in the past.”

Aguilar said the event currently has approximately 30 volunteers but is still in need of more. To sign up as a volunteer and more information on Up All Night: Midnight Breakfast, contact the Office of Student Life at 915-747-5648 or visit them at Union West Room 102.

Jose Soto may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.
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CLASS OF 2015
In-state tuition for DREAMers at risk

BY MARIA ESQUINCA

The Prospector

A row of students dressed in cap and gowns stood in protest against a slew of anti-immigration bills introduced into the state legislature this session at an immigration rally on Thursday, April 30.

Higher education is an institution that should reward individuals based on merit, on accomplishments, on good grades, they shouldn’t be forced to be in a position of disenfranchisement or discrimination.

- Claudia Loli, junior political science major

The event was organized by the Border Network for Human Right in opposition to SB 1819, SB 3, HB 2912 and HB 11.

Out of the five bills, SB 1819 could potentially affect more than 100 estimated UTEP students if signed by Texas Governor Greg Abbott.

SB 1819 would repeal a 2001 law that allows undocumented students to be considered Texas residents, effectively allowing them to pay in-state tuition.

Under the law, anyone who graduated from a public or private high school, received a high school diploma and has maintained Texas residency for the three years preceding the diploma is eligible to pay in-state tuition.

Jacobo Prado, counsel general of Mexico, said Texas is one of the few states that allows for this.

However, SB 1819 would amend existing law by stating that a person not authorized under federal statute to be in the country legally cannot be considered a resident for the purpose of paying in-state tuition.

"Higher education is an institution that should reward individuals based on merit, on accomplishments, on good grades, they shouldn’t be forced to be in a position of disenfranchisement or discrimination," said Claudia Loli, a Deferred Action Against Childhood Arrival student and junior political science major.

SB 1819 would also allow an institution of higher education to establish a policy requiring a person to submit specific documentation to verify their authorization under federal statute to be in the country.

"At the rally, a big human-sized puppet held by a wooden stick was plastered with the face of Sen. Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels, who is one of the authors of SB 1819. She is also the chair of the veteran’s affairs and military installations committee, a sub-committee on border security, where the bill will be heard.

"She’s a big advocate against dreamers," said Oscar Silva, communications affairs and media relations officer for Sen. Jose Rodriguez, D-El Paso. "They truly don’t have logic that can be backed up with numbers and figures. Every single one of these bills has received bi-partisan opposition.

According to the Higher Education Coordinating Board, 20,049 students in fiscal year 2012 and 24,770 in fiscal year 2013 qualified for in-state tuition.

Campbell also cited data based on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s numbers, which state that the cost for providing tuition benefits for undocumented students has grown 68 percent over the past three years.

"If this rate continues, funding for in-state tuition for undocumented students will cost Texas taxpayers $100 million by the year 2020," she wrote. "The recent surge of undocumented aliens coming from Central America, coupled with President Obama’s questionable executive orders (such as DACA), will likely exacerbate these costs.

DACA or Deferred Action against Childhood Arrivals allows Dreamers, or undocumented immigrants who entered the country before they were 16, lived in the US for at least 5 years and are under 31, to be con-
Recap of the 2015 Texas Legislation session, tuition and immigration bills filed, among others

BY ALONSO MORENO
The Prospector

Maria Espeuca contributed to this story.

January 2015 not only marked the beginning of the new semester at UTEP, it also marked the beginning of the 84th Texas legislative session, which was set to be a heated one with issues such as education, gun rights and immigration.

The Texas Legislature meets in a regular session every two years, convening on the second Tuesday in January of every odd-numbered year. These biennial sessions are limited to 140 days. The governor can also call additional special sessions as necessary, which cannot exceed 30 days. The 84th Legislative Session is January 13 through June 1, 2015. Here is a recap on some of the most prominent bills The Prospector featured from this session:

1. Revoking In-state Tuition for Dreamers

In 2001, Texas was the first state to introduce a law allowing undocumented students to pay in-state tuition rates to attend public universities in the form of HB 1403. The bill allowed undocumented immigrant students to pay in-state tuition rates as long as they graduated from high school or received a GED in Texas. They also must have lived in the state for three years or more and sign and affidavit affirming that they were seeking legal residency. According to data from The Center for Public Policy Priorities, about 27,770 non-citizen resident students out of 3,305,684 total students (1.9 percent of total students) benefited from HB 1403.

This year’s legislative session saw the introduction of legislation to repeal the Texas Dream Act by State Rep. Jonothan Stickland, R-Bedford. Texas Lt. Gov. elect Dan Patrick said he wants to end the act, and Governor Greg Abbott has indicated he wouldn’t veto any repeal efforts.

Pertinent legislation:
- HB 209 Status filed
- HB 360 Status filed
- HB 586 Status filed
- SB 1819 Status: Pending committee

2. Re-regulate Tuition Rates

Lawmakers have also taken on the task of tackling the increased cost of state colleges and universities. Prior to 2003, the Texas Legislature was responsible for setting tuition rates, but since opting to abdicate that power, the statewide average for tuition and fees has more than doubled. However, according to a Texas Tribune analysis, only nine of the state’s 38 four-year public institutions and fees went up at a higher rate after 2003 than they did in the decade before it.

State Sen. Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, introduced a bill that would re-regulate tuition by capping increases at the rate of inflation, and State Rep. Mary Gonzalez, D-Clint, also authored a similar bill as well.

Senate Higher Education Committee Chairman Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, and Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, have both also filed legislation that would re-regulate tuition. The bill by Seliger would tie tuition increases to performance measures, and the Ellis bill would require universities to get approval from lawmakers before increasing tuition.

According to information provided by The Texas Tribune, from 1993 to 2003 UTEP saw a tuition percent increase of 179.32 percent and a 95.40 percent increase from 2003 to 2013. Pertinent legislation:
- HB 89 Status filed
- HB 233 Status filed
- HB 255 Status filed
- HB 793 Status filed
- HB 827 Status filed

3. Immigration Issues

Sanctuary Cities

Texas legislators also focused on so-called “sanctuary cities,” which is the term for government entities that forbid local police forces from enforcing federal immigration laws, including arrest, the immigration status of someone detained or arrested.

Senate Bill 185 by state Sen. Charles Perry, R-Lubbock, would cut off state funding for local governments or governmental entities that adopt policies such as the ones described above.

According to state Sen. Sylvia Garcia, D-Houston, the bill would encourage racial profiling.

“She said it ‘puts Texas on the wrong side of history.” Garcia said during a debate for the bill. “It will lead to racial profiling and it will give people cover.”

Pertinent legislation:
- HB 11 Status approved by House
- HB 10 Status approved by House
- HB 360 Status approved by House
- SB 160 Status filed
- SB 592 Status filed

Border Security Package

Texas Legislation introduced a three-part border security package, which Gov. Greg Abbott has declared a legislative priority.


Thompson’s bill would increase the penalties for human trafficking, Bonnen’s bill would increase the number of Texas Department of Public Safety officers on the border, establish a catchall intelligence center in Hudal-go County to analyze border crime data and create a voluntary corps of retired DPS officers all in the span of two years.

Longoria’s bill would fund the Border Prosecution Unit, a body that was established to help border prosecutors handle increased caseloads. It consists of 17 jurisdictions that include counties on the state’s border with Mexico and other surrounding areas.

Gov Greg Abbott has stated in the past that the Obama administration has done a poor job of securing the border.

Pertinent legislation:
- HB 10 Status approved by House
- HB 11 Status approved by House
- HB 12 Status approved by House

4. Gun Rights and Marijuana Gun Rights

Since the end of this session, Texas legislators have taken aim at gun rights in the state and the possibility of expanding them.

Senate Bill 17 from state Sen. Craig Estes, R-Wichita Falls, and House Bill 910 by Committee Chairman Larry Phillips, R-Sherman, would allow concealed handgun license owners to openly carry a handgun in public.

Since 1995, Texas has been able to carry concealed handguns if they complete a training class and obtain a license. However, the state is also one of six states that prohibit concealed display of handguns outside of private property.

Texas is home to 13 sanctuary cities, among them Austin, Dallas and Houston. El Paso is not among those listed in Texas.

Pertinent legislation:
- SB 185 Status filed
- SB 160 Status filed
- SB 592 Status filed

FOR RECAP on page A22
On Earth Day, a team of UTEP professors and students placed second in the Desal Prize, a Securing Water for Food Challenge. The technology used by the UTEP team is called Zero Discharge Desalination, and it was created by Davis when he worked in the University of Southern California alongside Sandia National Laboratories and the Federal Bureau of Reclamation, but was improved upon when he arrived at UTEP.

The water treated by the team had high concentrations of calcium sulfate, also known as gypsum, the same mineral that composes the white sands of White Sands National Monument.

"Because there's so much gypsum in the soil, rain percolating through the soil will dissolve the gypsum and produce ground water that is nearly saturated in gypsum," Davis said. Usually brackish water is treated by a process called reverse osmosis, but because of the high calcium sulfate concentrations found in the water, this process only yields 70 to 75 percent of desalinated water.

"We combine two membrane processes to produce three things—drinkable water, agriculture water and waste drain bloated with gypsum," Cappelle said.

The two membranes are called Dow NF90 membranes and Dow NF270 membranes, and after those processes, the water is fed into an electrodialysis metalization system.

"The calcium ions from the gypsum associate with chloride ions from the sodium chloride and the sodium ions associate with the sulfate from the gypsum," Davis said. "By separating the calcium and the sulfate, we can produce very soluble salts.

After the process, the gypsum taken out of the ground water forms a solid material that can be used for other things such as building materials or augmentation of the soil.

"This is different from most other techniques dealing with a gypsum-rich groundwater," he said. "Our ability to make a solid material and have a solid byproduct rather than having a large volume of concentrated solution makes our process very attractive for better utilization of the groundwater" UTEP students helped with the construction of the solar panels needed to build the system, which had to be completely powered by renewable energy.

Gustavo Puiatti, senior environmental engineering major and exchange student from the Brazilian Mobility Scientific program, was one of the students that helped. He worked with water treatment technologies back in Brazil and would like to do so in the future.

"We can use the new technologies to give good water quality to the population," Puiatti said.
Our view

PHOTO EDITOR

MICHAELA ROMÁN, 747-7477

Community reacts to anti-immigration bills

More than 300 El Pasoans marched on April 30 through downtown to protest anti-immigration bills.

DREAMERS from page 15

sidered a low-priority deportee, and allows them benefits such as getting a social security card, a drivers license and work authorization. "What we have been doing is to tell these kids to take advantage if you are really able to obtain DACA. It is not a regulation program, but it solves the problem temporarily," Prado said. "We are working with lawyers, with organizations, with the community so they can do something. It is not the best scenario, but it is what can be done." According to UTEP officials, there are about 130 Dreamers enrolled in the university. "We are closely following the discussion regarding DREAM Act (DACA) students in Texas and will wait to see how it will affect the 130 students to which it applies," UTEP President Diana Natalicio said in an e-mail. "We are committed to providing access and excellence to all students with the talent and motivation to pursue their educational goals, regardless of their background." According to the Immigration Policy Center as of 2014, 673,417 young people have applied to the program and 553,197 have been approved. "I myself am a DACA student and I graduated high school magna cum laude and had over $200,000 in scholarships, which I couldn’t receive due to my immigration status," Loli said. "UTEP was one of the few schools who took me in and allowed me to continue my education by allowing me to pay in-state tuition. Making me pay out-of-state tuition now is inhumane." Critics of SB 1819 add that it does not make economic sense. "They're paying tuition… and they are spending their money here. They contribute to the local economy," Prado said. The UnDACAmented Research Project by the Immigration Policy Center, surveyed 2,684 DACA-eligible adults and found that 60 percent of DACA beneficiaries had obtained a new job since receiving DACA, and 45 percent had increased their earnings. Due to the wage increase, it allowed for a wider tax base and an increase to the economy. "As immigrants, we contribute to the economy, we contribute to the schools, we contribute to our community," Loli said.

Maria Esquinca may be reached at theprospectordailynews@gmail.com.
As a senior at UTEP who is graduating this spring, I began to make preparations earlier this month to take part in the May 16 commencement ceremony. My first step was to attend the graduation clearance workshop, where I was informed that I was indeed cleared to graduate (cum laude to boot) and I was encouraged to join UTEP’s Alumni Association.

According to the person conducting the workshop, UTEP graduates in the past have not been particularly interested in joining the association. She mentioned all the benefits such as networking with those in the know about possible job opportunities and looking cool at tailgate parties (whoop dee doo).

I appreciated the offer, but my four years at UTEP has been marked by one expense after another and I still needed to pay the graduation fee, in addition to buying a cap and gown.

"THE FUTURE IS HERE"

From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on May 7, an opening reception will be held for “The Future Is Here,” a senior graphic design portfolio exhibition will be held for the Spring 2015 semester. Exhibition Dates will be from May 7 to May 18.

"AMERICAN SNIPER"

At 6 p.m. on Wednesday May 6, Military Appreciation Week 2015 Discussion Panel and Film Presentation of “American Sniper” will be shown at the Union Cinema. A discussion panel will be held before the movie and the film will start at 7:15 p.m.

"STUDENT ART EXHIBITION"

The Annual Juried UTEP Student Art Exhibition Opening Reception will take place from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on May 8 at the Rubin Center. The exhibit runs until Saturday July 18.
Hard-working seniors are recognized with prestigious award

Cardenas, along with nine other UTEP students, was awarded based on their drive, community service and hard work.

“I'm a first-generation college graduate,” Cardenas said. “This is a big deal for me and my family. I feel very honored.” To receive the award, seniors need to have a minimum cumulative 3.25 GPA, provide three recommendation letters from faculty, staff or advisers and show sustained involvement on campus and in the community.

Cardenas is part of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, among other UTEP organizations. She is also the recipient of 15 different scholarships. Sonia Villa, associate director of Alumni Programs and Services, said the award is one that many students set out to obtain. "Students that strive to achieve a high grade point average and are involved in both campus life and their community will be reflected in their application. The recognition this award bestowed on the recipients is very rewarding and distinguishes them as the top students in their class." Mayela Aldaz, senior metallurgical and materials engineering major, is also one of the 10 seniors who were awarded. She said the key to receiving the award is to always “have a sense of purpose.”

“It isn’t entirely about your grade point average and grades,” Aldaz said. “You need to value and appreciate what you are studying in order to give it purpose.”

Aldaz said that her community and family have also been a driving force behind her motivation to stay focused on her studies.

Both Cardenas and Aldaz are among four engineering majors who received the award. All four are female students.

Alex Balcazar, senior sociology major and health promotions minor, is also one of the other top 10 seniors. Balcazar said that his family was “finding something special about what you do.”

“At first, Balcazar emerged as one of four engineering majors who received the award. All four are female students. Alex Balcazar, senior sociology major and health promotions minor, is also one of the other top 10 seniors. Balcazar said that his family was “finding something special about what you do.”

“Stay focused on your goals and you’ll achieve good things, such as this award,” Balcazar said. "There is more to college than attending college. You’ll be driven to do your best if you do so.”

Balcazar is part of the percussion ensemble at UTEP and a Junior Youth Empowerment group. He plans to continue his education at the University of Texas at Houston for a master's degree in public health.

Balcazar encourages other UTEP students to always strive for excellence. "Stay focused on your goals and you’ll achieve good things, such as this award," Balcazar said. "There is more to college than attending college. You’ll be driven to do your best if you do so.”

Jennifer Soto may be reached at jenifersoto@utep.edu.

The University of Texas at El Paso will be hosting various graduating ceremonies starting next week. Different colleges have different ceremonies.

The Hooding and certificate ceremony for Ph.D graduates and masters students of the College of Business Administration will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 14 at the Plaza Theatre in Downtown El Paso.

The College ceremony for the College of Education will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 15 at Magoffin Auditorium.

The Order of the Engineer ceremony for the College of Engineering will begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 16 at Magoffin Auditorium.

The Graduation celebration and hooding ceremony for the College of Health Sciences will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 7 at Magoffin Auditorium.

The Hooding and certificate ceremony for Ph.D graduates and masters students of the College of Business Administration will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 14 at the Plaza Theatre in Downtown El Paso.

The College ceremony for the College of Education will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 15 at Magoffin Auditorium.

The Order of the Engineer ceremony for the College of Engineering will begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 16 at Magoffin Auditorium.

The Graduation celebration and hooding ceremony for the College of Health Sciences will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 7 at Magoffin Auditorium.

Award and Hooding Ceremony for the College of Liberal Arts will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 14 at Magoffin Auditorium.

Military Science Commissioning Ceremony will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 15 at the Union Cinema Union Building East.

The School of Nursing Graduate Recognition Ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 15 at the El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center.

The Undergraduate Pinning Ceremony for the School of Nursing will begin at 6:00 p.m. on May 13 at the Magoffin Auditorium.

The College of Science Ceremony will be on Tuesday, May 12. The ceremony will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Magoffin Auditorium.

The UTEP Graduating Ring Ceremony will be on Thursday, May 7 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center.

This ceremony is open to those who have purchased UTEP rings.

The UTEP Graduation Mass will be on Saturday, May 9 at 5:00 p.m. at the Holy Family Catholic Church located at 104 Fewel Street. Contact the Catholic Campus Ministry at 838-0300.
Many students already know where they will pursue graduate school, as acceptance letters rolled in during the semester. But for those still contemplating whether they should go to graduate school, the age-old question is sure to be asked after the graduation celebrations have ceased – is it worth it?

As of April 2, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the unemployment rate for someone with a master’s degree was 2.8 percent, whereas someone with some college and no degree was 6 percent and those with an associate’s degree was 4.5 percent. However, the type of degree a graduate student pursues depends on whether they will find employment after completing the program based on the demand for the field.

Over the next 10 years, BLS predicted that physical therapy assistants, audiologists, nurse practitioners, civil engineers and event planners would be the occupations in high demand, but for some occupations, the median earnings for a bachelor’s degree is $47,000 annually, as opposed to $65,000 per year for a graduate degree.

"It’s obvious in many professions, an increasingly advanced degree is required. More and more employers are looking for a master’s degree to find employment," said Dr. Charles Ambler, dean of UTEP’s graduate school.

Ambler said that there is a substantial gap that occurs between a bachelor’s and master’s degree.

“There’s an economic logic to it, a professional logic to it, because it puts you in a position to be considered for a much wider range of job,” he said. “There’s a clear relationship between the training and the kind of education you receive.”

UTEF’s graduate school program currently has 20 doctoral programs and more than 80 master’s and certificate programs.

If a student pursues a research degree, the program will usually pay the student to complete it, such as with biology, psychology or chemistry majors. The student is given a stipend, which helps pay for school and other expenses, along with being given a paid research assistant position.

For professional degrees, some-times employers will pay for the student’s tuition. Scholarships are also available, depending on the degree and the student, along with the option to borrow money.

“As long as you stretch out the borrowing, and don’t borrow too much, it just makes sense to do,” Ambler said. “If you are a master’s student, and don’t have that support available, it is easy to borrow money.”

Adelmar Ramirez, who will receive his master in fine arts degree in creative writing this spring, said that graduate school was different from undergraduate school and provides a lot of background and knowledge for doing more of what he wanted to do.

“The last year of graduate school was kind of on my own – reading books and applying them to my thesis. It wasn’t someone teaching me stuff. It was getting information on my own,” Ramirez said.

Ramirez was in the MFA program for three years, and the program provided him with a job for each year – whether being a teaching assistant, an editor for a journal at UTEP or teaching classes.

These jobs helped him pay for school, where he only had to pay $2,000 per semester. He was also awarded scholarships and grants to help pay for tuition.

Because of these experiences, he can now apply at the El Paso Community College to start teaching classes.

“When you go to graduate school, you can apply for financial aid,” Ramirez said. “The great thing with graduate school is that you enter it with a steady job. So I used that money to pay for school and had extra left over. I really didn’t have anything else to pay afterward. It is kind of expensive, but it is still worth it.”

Ramirez wants to pursue a doctoral degree, but will wait another year before starting school again.

“I think I’ve had enough school for a while since I’ve been going to school back to back. I’m not in a hurry and I will wait the year to see my options,” he said.

However, deciding to attend graduate school for the possible $20,000 extra in median earnings may not be advisable.

Out of the $1 trillion in outstanding student loan debt for the U.S., 40 percent of that was from students pursuing a graduate or professional degree, according to the New American Foundation.

“You shouldn’t do a graduate degree if the only reason you’re doing it is to get more money,” Ambler said. “It requires engagement and commitment to be successful. You have to be passionate, especially to get at the Ph.D. level.”

Ambler said that going to graduate school is more about personal satisfaction.

“Graduate school is not just more years of college. It’s about further researching what you love, to change people’s lives and bodies of knowledge,” he said.

— Lorain Ambrocio may be reached at lorainambrocio@gmail.com.
Senate Bill 11 from state Sen. Brian Birdwell, R-Cypress, and House Bill 937 by state Rep. Allen Fletcher, R-Houston, would allow students to carry concealed handguns on a college campus.

Both Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp and University of Texas System Chancellor William McRaven sent letters to be read during the hearings for “campus carry.”

McRaven is opposed to the idea of having guns on university campuses and stated that doing so would create less safe environments.

In contrast, Sharp stated that he felt that he could trust “his students, faculty and staff to work and live responsibly under the same laws at the university as they do at home.”

Gov. Abbott stated in the past that he would support any form of legislation aimed at expanding gun rights in the state.

“I will sign whatever legislation reaches my desk that expands Second Amendment rights in Texas,” Abbott said during capitol hearings.

Pertinent Legislation

SB 13 Status: approved by Senate HB 937 Status: filed SB 17 Status: approved by Senate HB 910 Status: approved by House

5. Decriminalizing marijuana possession

Texas lawmakers have also looked at marijuana during this legislative session, as five bills have been brought forward to the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence in efforts to decriminalize the use of the substance in the state.

House Bill 507 from state Rep. Joseph Moody, D-El Paso, would reduce penalties for possession of less than one ounce to a $100 fine and no jail time.

House Bill 325 from state Rep. Gene Wu, D-Houston, seeks to reduce possession of 0.35 ounces of marijuana to a Class C misdemeanor. Currently it’s a Class B misdemeanor. House Bill 414, from state Rep. Ron Reynolds, D-Missouri City, also seeks to lower the charges on marijuana possession.

House Bill 3326 from state Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, would decrease the punishment for certain misdemeanors and felony offenses involving drug possession, and House Bill 2165 from Rep. David Simpson (R-Longview), would repeal current provisions to end state-level prohibition on marijuana.

All bills have been left pending in committee.

HB 325 Status: filed HB 414 Status: filed HB 3326 Status: filed

6. Tuition Revenue Bonds

Tuition revenue bonds are how the state funds campus construction projects at public universities, every other session. The last time this was done was in 2006.

In the last legislative session in 2013, a plan to provide more than $2.7 billion to support about 60 campus construction projects around the state failed to gain final approval before the legislative session ended. Because of the lack of funding, many universities, including UTEP, have had to delay construction projects.

Senate bills related to this by senators Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, Kel Seliger, R-Midland, R-Amarillo, and Kirk Watson, D-Austin are all in the higher education committee.

Pertinent Legislation

SB 21 Status: filed SB 150 Status: filed HB 326 Status: filed HB 245 Status: filed

7. Anti-Gay Rights Legislation

In this legislative session, more than 20 anti-LGBTQ bills were introduced, a 30 percent increase from the previous legislative session. Among them are HB 1747 and 1748, both authored by state Rep. Debbie Riddle, R-Tomball. HB 1747 would prosecute transgender individuals for using a public restroom that is appropriate for their gender identity, but that does not coincide with the gender on their driver’s license. HB 1748 is similar, but it would prosecute a transgender person for using a public locker room, shower facility or toilet facility, appropriate to their gender identity, but not to the individual’s chromosomes. While HB 2801, authored by state Rep. Pervaiz R-Pasadena, would fine school districts up to $2,000 for allowing students to use a bathroom or other public facilities that do not coincide with their sex chromosome.

A number of cities, such as El Paso, Houston and San Antonio, have passed nondiscrimination ordinances that offer some protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Legislation by state Sen. Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels, and state Rep. Jason Villalba, R-Dallas, seeks to protect the religious liberty of small businesses. Critics say their proposed constitutional amendments, SJR 10 and HJR 35, would limit the ability of cities to enforce nondiscrimination ordinances.

Meanwhile, several Democratic lawmakers have filed legislation to recognize same-sex marriage in the state, such as SRJ 13 and HJR 34. These Democrats are also pushing for legislation to allow both same-sex parents to be included on a child’s birth certificate, as well as to repeal the state law that states homosexual conduct is an offense.

Pertinent legislation


For more information on these and all bills filed during the 84th Texas Legislature, please visit: http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/
The Prospector

According to a Pew Research Center Report conducted in 2014, about four-in-10 U.S. household owners who are younger than 40 currently have some student debt. This is the highest share on record, some UTEP alums say that loan debt is something that can make graduation seem less of a joyous time and more of a daunting one.

Sergio Padilla graduated from UTEP with a degree in mathematics in 2011, four years later, he is still struggling to pay off his loan debt. “My debt level was near the average for that time, and my monthly payments have been over $300 a month, which is on the level of a car payment. I was lucky, however, to be able to find a job in my field before the six-month grace period ended, but I very nearly didn’t,” Padilla said.

The median outstanding student debt load stands at about $13,000. Some students may see the grace period as a clock ticking down the time to find a job, but an article for U.S. News and World Report says that grace periods are meant to help more than hurt. The report, titled “6 Little-known Facts About Student Loan Grace Periods,” says that “... grace periods are a tool meant to help student loan borrowers start off on the right foot. Their intent is to give borrowers some time to find a job and get themselves financially established before their student loan payments come due.”

Regardless of the time, Padilla had to find a job and he said that keeping up with the payments and other expenses has not been easy. “Even with a job, it hasn’t been easy to make these payments. Factor-ing in housing, transportation, taxes and the myriad other expenses post-college adult life requires, having that loan payment can make things financially tighter. I don’t have children yet—and I can’t imagine having any until my student loans become more manageable. In order to give myself some more wiggle room in creating a life like my parents did after graduating from college, I have had to request lower payments, which amounts to basically paying the interest alone.”

A 2014 Survey of Consumer Finances finds that households lead by a young, college-educated adult without student debt has about seven times the typical net worth at $64,700 than households lead by a young, college-educated adult with student loan debt, who had a net worth of $8,700. The study also finds that those students with no student debt have accumulated nine times as much wealth as those with debt—the numbers being $10,900 in wealth for the students with no debt and $1,200 for those with debt.

These numbers are significantly dramatic despite the fact that debtors and non-debtors have nearly identical household incomes. The total balance of student-loan debt has reached a record high of $1.1 trillion as of 2015.

President Barack Obama’s push for financial aid overhaul in Congress ultimately led to a government-subsidized private sector loan program being entirely shut down. Once changes to the income-based repayments were made under the Affordable Care Act, borrowers had to pay only 10 percent of their income per month, with the forgiveness timeline lowered to 20 years. With legislation now in effect, students can borrow directly from the federal government and be eligible for the favored repayment terms.

Now in his fourth year of loan payments approaching the half way mark, Padilla advises all graduating seniors to look into programs that will help them pay off their student loans. “My advice would be to start looking into legitimate programs that may help you reduce your debt. As a teacher, I can apply for the TEACH Grant, which will reduce my debt by nearly two thirds after working in a low-income school for five years,” Padilla said. “Different professions may have different programs. Also only reduce payments if you truly need to—or you will be treading water paying mostly interest without making a dent in your loan. Start paying it back as soon as you can.”

Amanda Guillen may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.
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CONGRATULATIONS Graduates

A special congratulations to our own grad, Arlene! We’re so proud of you!
The Prospector

Since the semester began, Deven James McCoy, senior studio art major, has dedicated his time preparing artwork for his exhibition.

His project proposal was accepted at the Campus Office of Undergraduate Research Initiatives (COURI), a program that seeks to advance research participation among undergraduate students.

"My exhibition is entitled 'Beyond Common' and basically features work that I have created for research purposes over the course of the last two semesters," McCoy said.

McCoy's research is divided into two parts. One part focuses on the illustration of a character named Common Man, who represents the mundane social standard of what is an American citizen. The second part is the representation of McCoy's ideas about the world of illustration.

"I've come across tons of people in the art community who kind of look down on illustration as an inferior practice," McCoy said. "In my opinion, I believe that mentality is due to the commercial properties typically associated with creating and replicating illustrative work."

McCoy found out about the opportunity to apply for his research program with the help of Kim Bauer, associate professor of art and McCoy's mentor.

"Deven had been a teaching assistant of mine for a year and I respect his artwork, commitment to quality, along with his writing and research skills," Bauer said.

McCoy said this semester meant a lot of work for him where he gained knowledge. He said art is not only something that a person can create, but also something the artist needs to learn how to communicate and convey.

"I feel like anyone can learn how to draw or paint well, but being able to come up with conceptions is something else entirely. It's actually not a skill many artists own," McCoy said. "I have always been pretty good about talking about my art and coming up with ideas, but now I've been able to develop those skills even further to work hand in hand with my technical ability."

Professor Bauer became a support system during McCoy's research project.

"I honestly could not have asked for a better mentor. Not only was Mr. Bauer an excellent resource both technically and conceptually, but he also kept my head on my shoulders when I felt like it was going to fall off," McCoy said.

Bauer also helped McCoy work with different methods and new technologies combined them with already existing art-making methods.

"Among the methods that McCoy used to create his artwork is the use of 3D printers and CNC routers, which are computer-controlled cutting machines he used to create his relief prints. "Relief prints have been around for centuries, but definitely not with these recent technological advancements," McCoy said. "Working with these methods and technologies that very few, if any, artists are currently taking advantage of was pretty exciting."

"As artists, our research is based on all three of these areas in obviously different percentages for each endeavor," Bauer said. "Continued artistic research is critical, as it develops ideas and questions for future investigation, eliminates stagnation and produces results."

McCoy will be graduating this spring. His plans are to continue doing art and partake in as many opportunities that he can.

"Attending graduate school is an obvious choice, but it's definitely not the only one," McCoy said.

Fernanda Leon may be reached at theprospectordailyent@gmail.com.
Our View

Best entertainment moments during spring 2015

1. The UTEP Dinner Theater presented “Mary Poppins: The Musical.”
2. Cirque du Soleil’s “Varekai” came to the Don Haskins Center.
3. Enrique Iglesias and Pitbull brought their “Sex and Love” tour to the Don Haskins Center.

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Come and celebrate with us! 10% off your next purchase with a valid student ID.

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Students members of the many organizations at UTEP have been talking to high school students about the importance of college with the goal of motivating students to apply to places of higher education.

Vanessa Soto, senior biological sciences major and member of Peer-Lead Team Learning, said she has done advanced tutoring and spoken at high schools to help encourage students to attend college and be active on campus.

“In high schools there is definitely pressure on students who maintain grades above a B to attend college," Soto said. "Scholarship opportunities and college applications are shoved down the throats of these students, but they aren’t really informed well on why they should care this much about attending college.”

Soto also makes it a goal to speak to struggling high school students because she said those students tend to be neglected the most.

Although Soto advocates the importance of students attending college, she also makes it a point to explain that higher education is a huge commitment.

“This first-hand advice could really lead the right students on the right path,” Soto said.

Soto said speaking to students has helped her evolve as a student because it has changed her point of view on college altogether.

“I think when you enter college, you definitely have a selfish point of view on life,” Soto said. “You strive to move forward regardless of how it affects others.”

By speaking to high school students, she said she has realized it is okay to ask for help, and she wants to share this message with high school students.

“You yourself may need help every now and then, but can’t find anyone to help you out,” Soto said. “Giving this opportunity to students that I did not have, I feel has changed my view on how to become successful in life in some ways.”

Being a part of an organization has also given Soto the opportunity to speak to students and she said it is a very rewarding experience that has allowed her to make many friends.

Kimberly Vela, senior clinical laboratory science major, spoke to students with her department’s Early College High School Success Center.

Vela said college students speaking to high schoolers about the importance of attending college has a great impact on the perspective of high school students.

“First, it allows them to see that college is an attainable goal regardless of socioeconomic background,” Vela said. “Especially in the El Paso region, where students may limit their options because they may not have all the means to finance a college education.”

Vela said high school students who see other students with similar backgrounds being going to college is a big motivator. It also gives students an idea of what career paths they can follow.

“Personally, I didn’t even know about my major before a UTEP student at a job fair informed me about it,” Vela said. “It was because of this experience, which he made seem like a great one, that I decided to look into it.”

Soto said talking to high school students will hopefully motivate students to go to college.

“I hope that we have promoted students to ask themselves questions about the possibility of them attending college and what they can get out of it,” Vela said.

Esperanza Candelaria, staff member of the World Leaders’ Council at UTEP, said speaking to high school students was impactful on students pursuing their college education.

“I spoke to students at a school I previously attended in a low-income area,” Candelaria said. “It was mostly teaching students that I did it and they can too.”

Candelaria said that the goal of speaking to the students was to encourage them to attend college even if they think they cannot afford it because it is possible to still do so.

“We asked how many were attending college, and they raised their hands, and we wanted them to continue knowing that they can,” Candelaria said.

Julia Hettiger may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

Rumgay said the Gilman Scholarship is a reality.

“This year’s awardees were April Rumgay, who received $8,000 to study in Turkey, Stephanie Arzate, sophomore mechanical engineering major who was awarded $4,000 to study in Italy, and Lorina Bustillos, who received $3,000 to study in Peru. The scholarship was awarded for the upcoming summer.
**Student entrepreneur builds recipe for success**

**BY VALERIE HERRERA**

Eddie Flores, 28, stared out across the piles of debris and dust with his hands in his pockets as he watched a portion of reconditioned shipping containers neatly stacked on top of each other transform into the Modern Hookah and Common Ground, located by the TI:ME center in West El Paso.

With a sense of purpose, a plan of action and the help of family, friends and business partners, Flores, junior business management major and owner of Modern Hookah and Common Ground, decided to launch his first business in 2011 when he was 24 years-old. “I’ve always wanted to own one and owning two businesses is a huge blessing, but also a lot of work,” Flores said.

In 2011, Flores opened up his first business, Modern Hookah, as a catering service located inside The Garden restaurant at the Union Plaza. Since then, he gradually expanded into other local clubs and bars within the community.

“We consistently gained popularity and when the opportunity came for us to open at TI:ME, we felt it was the best opportunity for us to branch out on our own,” Flores said. Flores held the grand opening of Modern Hookah inside TI:ME in 2014. The same year he decided to open the doors to a second business, Common ground, a quaint craft beer and wine bar located in East El Paso. “Common Ground was an idea my business partner and I had been working on for months.” Flores said. “It was risky deciding to open both businesses within the same year, but it is a decision I don’t regret.”

Flores dreamed of starting his own business, but did not wait until he graduated to become an entrepreneur. He was motivated to launch his own hookah business while still enrolled as a student in the undergraduate business program.

Eddie Flores, 28, stared out across the piles of debris and dust with his hands in his pockets as he watched a portion of reconditioned shipping containers neatly stacked on top of each other transform into the Modern Hookah and Common Ground, located by the TI:ME center at the Montecillo shopping center in West El Paso.

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By the end of the day, if you are determined and passionate about something, then you will surely make it.

“Seeing other local people achieve success motivated me to do more, so I decided to leave school in an effort to expand my business,” Flores said. “My academics became to difficult to manage when my main focus and energy at the time, was set on launching my business productively.”

While debating the benefits of finishing school versus starting his own business, Flores decided to put his education on hold to pursue his dream of entrepreneurship. “It was a difficult decision to make, but one that I don’t regret.” Flores said.

While working as office manager for Nationwide Insurance, Flores said going to school and working another day job was not easy when operating a business at the same time, but it has taught him how to make better decisions on how to spend his time.

“Having a full-time job and owning both locations is hard, but I have great business partners and staff that make my life so much easier,” Flores said. “They help me keep my drive to keep improving.” Flores said going back to school can offer valuable business insight. “I regret not finishing school first, but I know if I can achieve the success I hope for, then I will be able to finish school with a totally new perspective.”

Aside from obtaining his degree in business, Flores also hopes to seek another degree in web design.

Flores plans to expand Modern Hookah by adding an outdoor patio to the space and launching a clothing line with the brand. He would like to add a food menu to Common Ground and participate in local beer and wine festivals.

With aspirations to stay and expand as much as he can in the community, Flores also hopes to meet with the growing trend of owning a food truck. “I am extremely happy to have made the decisions I made and wouldn’t change it for the world,” Flores said. “By the end of the day, if you are determined and passionate about something, then you will surely make it.”

Flores may be reached at theprospectordaily@gmail.com.
Learning never stops, even after graduation

BY FERNANDA LEON
The Prospector

Graduation day is approaching and many students have been looking forward to this day, the start of their professional life, continuing on to graduate school, or a long vacation after all the years of studying. Andy Camacho, senior, media advertising major, is graduating this semester after being in college for more than four years. For people who have taken a long vacation during the summer and get to know many different places in the world. She plans to travel out of the country for about a month and maybe do an au pair for three or four months, Camacho said.

She’s planning to do two stops first in Mexico and then a summer in Europe. Camacho will first be in Mexico City, where she will attend a marketing conference. She plans to stay for a week and later move on to Morelia, to visit a friend. In Europe, she plans on visiting the Netherlands, Belgium, Hungary, and attend a festival for a week.

“I have a friend who studied abroad in Amsterdam and she is going back, so I’m planning to join her on her trip,” Camacho said. “I have never been to that part of Europe and I’m really curious about their culture.”

“If I get to do an au pair with a family, I expect to learn their lifestyle and remind you to stay humble, ” Sanchez said. “I like traveling with purpose, like volunteering or working for food and bed. You learn so much by helping the community you are visiting.”

For Camacho, traveling is an important part of her life because she believes that travel helps you discover yourself and gives you the chance to meet people from other parts of the world. She also said traveling teaches you the freedom of being wherever you want, Camacho said. “I’m also interested in learning English to non-native speakers, which would also open me many doors in other countries.”

On the other hand, many students decide to go to graduate school right after they graduate in order to fulfill their professional goals. Harry Sanchez, senior art major, is one of many students who will start graduate school right away.

“I was out of school for many years, did not practice art and feel that I am still far behind many of my peers as well as other artists that are at my level of just entering the art world, and there is much more knowledge I have to gain as an artist in many areas,” Sanchez said.

For his future as an artist, Sanchez is planning to work with the Art Avenue for the next two years while he’s in graduate school. Sanchez also has a small business, where he bakes cakes and cupcakes. He plans to create edible artwork so he can open a shop one day.

“Seeing the way other people live can always keep you grounded and remind you to stay humble,” Sanchez said. “That is something I feel will always help when being a professional in any line of work.”

“A gallery of a cupcake shop would be pretty funny but not out of the question,” Sanchez said. Sanchez said it is important to start graduate school right away because if he waited it would be harder for him to go back to school.

“One study pretty much said that once Hispanics leave school twice, they do not come back.” Sanchez said. “I am trying to be the exception and show others that you can overcome life’s adversity and finish school at any time in your life. It is never too late to finish school, no matter how many times you need to go back.”

Arely Camacho, senior media advertising major, studies while Bianca Martinez, junior media advertising major, looks over a travel book at the library.
"To those of you who received honors, awards and distinctions, I say well done. And to the C students, I say you too may one day be president of the United States."

—George W. Bush

Thank you to my family and those who supported me through out my career. I have now graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Nursing. In the summer of 2015, I started my 12 year career in nursing. I now have a family of two and a new baby on the way. My family is my everything. I would like to thank all of you for being there for me. You have been a great support system. I love you all!"
"Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."

- Dr. Seuss

Mom, Dad, Hank, you've been my support through this ordeal. Thank you for everything. Love, [Sign Name]

Shelly's Sister

Thank you for being such a source of support and motivation. I know that your love and encouragement will always be there for me. Thank you for all you do.

Linda James

Thank you for your love and support. I'm happy to have you in my family. Love, [Sign Name]

Priscilla Seay

Thank you for your love and support. I'm so happy to have you in my life. Love, [Sign Name]

Brenda G.

Thanks to my family and especially my husband, who always believed in me and stood by me when I needed support. I can't do this without you. Thank you so much.

Daniel Mejia

Thank you to all of the people who have supported me in this journey. I never forget all of your love and support.

Mom, Dad, and all my family, friends, and teachers. You are the ones who understand me. I love you all.

Dana Mora

Thank you for your love and support. I'm so happy to have you in my life. Love, [Sign Name]

Ann Mora

Thanks to my family and friends for all your love and support. You have been my rock. Love you, [Sign Name]

Proverbs 3:5-6

I thank God for my family for all the support and love. Hard work does pay off. Go Miners!!

- Jon

Thank you, God, and thank you for your love and support. I'm so happy to have you in my life. Love you, [Sign Name]

Psalm 23

Thank you for being my family, and for all your love and support. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. God bless you!!

This little keyhan Spanish-speaking girl graduated!!

Gracias mamá, papá, Ada, Ledia, Marín, Nana, Ddr. Ekel, y todo el albergue.

Thank you for all your support. Love you, [Sign Name]

Thank you to my family for all the support. Go Miners!!

Thank you for your support and guidance. I am so happy to have you in my life. Love you, [Sign Name]

Nancy C.}

Thank you to my family, friends, and teachers for all your love and support. I am so happy to have you in my life. Love you, [Sign Name]

Rick Beltran, CoV1

Thank you to all my friends and family for your love and support. I love you, [Sign Name]

Thank you to all my friends and family for your love and support. I love you, [Sign Name]

- Love, [Sign Name]

Thank you to all my family and friends for your love and support. I love you, [Sign Name]

AAA

Thank you to my beautiful Wife, Kristy!! My parents and family are all here to support.

Barbara

Thank you so much for supporting me every step of the way. I love you, Mom and Dad. Love always,

Diana Mora

- Love, [Sign Name]
"You get to make your own luck. 80% of success in your career will come from just showing up. The world is run by those who show up...not those who wait to be asked."

–Steve Blank
Muchas gracias a mi familia por ser mi refugio. Por ser mi fuente de amor y apoyo incondicional. A mis amigos por ser mi apoyo y mi razón para sonreír. A mis maestros por enseñarme. A mis compañeros por su apoyo y su amistad. A mi profesora por hacerme creer en mí. A mis amigos por su solidaridad y su apoyo.

- Ana Almeda

Muchas gracias por ser un ejemplo de amor y dedicación. Muchas gracias por tus palabras de aliento y tu apoyo incondicional.

- Maria Luisita

Muchas gracias por tu apoyo constante y tu cariño incondicional. Por estar siempre ahí para mí.

- Juan Carlos

Muchas gracias por tu apoyo y tu confianza en mí. Por ser mi guía en el camino.

- Sofia

Muchas gracias por tu amistad y tu apoyo. Por ser una parte importante de mi vida.

- Javi

Muchas gracias por tu amistad y tu apoyo. Por ser una parte importante de mi vida.

- Ana

Muchas gracias por tu apoyo y tu cariño. Por ser una parte importante de mi vida.

- David

Muchas gracias por tu apoyo y tu cariño. Por ser una parte importante de mi vida.

- Maria

Muchas gracias por tu apoyo y tu cariño. Por ser una parte importante de mi vida.

- Elena

Muchas gracias por tu apoyo y tu cariño. Por ser una parte importante de mi vida.

- María
“In response to those who say to stop dreaming and face reality, I say KEEP DREAMING and MAKE REALITY.”

-Kristian Kan
A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality.”

-Yoko Ono
"We do not need magic to change the world. We carry all the power we need inside ourselves already; we have the power to imagine better."

– J.K. Rowling
Floyd takes a chance on Dominic Artis

BY LUIS GONZALEZ
The Prospector

On May 5, 2014 sophomore point guard Dominic Artis was suspended by the University of Oregon basketball program because of his involvement in a forcible rape investigation. Artis will be sitting up as a part of the UTEP men’s basketball team next season, Miner head coach Tim Floyd announced.

“We did extensive research on Dominic’s history and character,” Floyd said. “Based on our due diligence, meeting with Dominic and his parents, and the endorsement of Matt Willms, who played with Dominic in prep school, we feel comfortable adding him to our team.”

I believe he is a good person and is worthy of a second chance.

- Tim Floyd,
UTEP men’s basketball head coach

Men’s basketball coach Tim Floyd announced the signing of Dominic Artis on Saturday, May 2.

Artis was dismissed, along with two other players, after two years as a Oregon Duck because of an incident that took place on March 13, 2014. After a victory during the 2014 NCAA Tournament, Artis and his two teammates were accused of raping a female student.

Because of a lack of evidence, none of the three players involved were charged. Still, the Lane County District Attorney wrote in a statement, “there is no doubt the incidents occurred.”

It was not the first time the 6-foot-1 guard from California was in trouble at Oregon.

UTEP softball says goodbye to Tahla Wade

BY JASON GREEN
The Prospector

Tahla Wade is a traveler. She traveled from Chicago to El Paso, found that she liked the campus and the local people, at least enough to call UTEP home for four years. This season she spent a lot of time traveling between first and second base. She led the team in stolen bases, while setting the UTEP single season record with 17.

She is about to graduate and travel back home, only to travel some more. Her family is moving from her hometown of Chicago to St. Louis. She has traveled a very long way in her career at UTEP and may have learned a few things about herself in the process.

“I think just my will to work hard,” said the soft-spoken Wade when asked to what she attributes her dramatic improvement on the field during her four years at UTEP.

She also attributes the teams’ vast improvement, as well as much of her own, to head coach Tobin Echo-Hawk and staff.

“It’s just awesome to see how far you can come with people giving you the tools that you need,” Wade said. “Getting the confidence that you need and knowing that you can really achieve anything as long as you work hard and you put your mind to it.”

Wade traveled from left field—where she had played for first three years of her UTEP career—to center field because the team needed her there. Just like every move Wade has made, she made the best of this one.

Echo-Hawk points to Wade’s tremendous speed when talking about the transition.

“She’s the fastest kid we have and she’s done a good job of working on getting better reads,” Echo-Hawk said. “That was her struggle last year, but she’s done a fantastic job of using her speed and just working with that.”

If the move affected Wade at all, it was not the first time she had been ashamed of. This season, Wade had a career .288 batting average at UTEP—definitely nothing to be ashamed of. This season, Wade finished with an outstanding .333, placing her third on the team.

She just has the powerful voice and when she uses it everybody just kind of stops and looks at her and follows her.

- Tobin Echo-Hawk, UTEP softball coach

Wade posted three triples this season giving her the career record for triples at UTEP with nine.

Anna-Kay James: overcoming hurdles

BY JUAN CARLOS NAVARRETE
The Prospector

UTEP hurdler Anna-Kay James, senior accounting major, has had a challenging year to say the least. Riddled with injury from the start, her senior year has provided plenty of physical and metaphorical hurdles, but her will to end her career as a Miner on a high note remains.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, James has track and field in her blood. Her mother, a hurdler like herself, is her main drive and inspiration in the sport. “She was very good at track. She is my biggest reason to keep running,” James said. “Even when I feel like I don’t want to run, she makes me want to run.”

Although life on the track started as a family affair for James, her excellence in the sport has provided opportunities that have been the key to her education. She received a scholarship for hurdling that allowed her to attend high school and then another that took her to Lincoln University.

“I realized I could be good at track because it is something that has got me to school,” James said.

Before coming to UTEP, James spent some time in Jefferson City, Mo., competing in Division II. While she was at Lincoln University from 2012-2013, she was named an All-American three times.

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Wade posted three triples this season giving her the career record for triples at UTEP with nine.
Softball just misses tournament berth

By Jason Green

It is almost a shame to even mention the fact that UTEP missed the Conference USA tournament for the fifth consecutive year. It makes the season sound as if it was a total loss. That is far from the truth.

Although a 14-39 record would probably be frowned upon by those outside the program, someone who has been there all season can easily find the upside.

The team was only two wins away from making it to the conference tournament during head coach Tobin Echo-Hawk’s second season. A boggling propensity for losing games on the road, the team was 0-19 away from home, costing the team a shot at the postseason.

One likely factor in the team’s road woes could be the roster that only contained two seniors, Ashley Eldridge and Tahla Wade.

The team was very young and may have had trouble adjusting to being away from home.

Another factor contributing to the 25 game disparity is the fact that Echo-Hawk scheduled what can only be described as the hardest tournament schedule that UTEP softball has ever faced.

The Miners played four games against ranked opponents in only the first three weeks of the season. The team traveled around the Southwest and to Hawaii during the course of playing four early-season tournaments.

Almost every game was against opponents of a higher-caliber team.

Echo-Hawk is proud of the resilience that her young team showed in playing a tough schedule and getting used to life in NCAA Division I softball.

“It was a good season,” Echo-Hawk said. “We overcame a lot of adversity and showed true resilience.”

This year’s team was led by seniors Eldridge and Wade. Eldridge – a preseason, all-conference selection – led the team with 37 runs batted in. The Las Vegas native batted .340 with eight home runs. Wade continued the improvement that she has shown every season. Finishing the season with a .333 average and 17 stolen bases – playing almost every game as the table setter in the leadoff spot.

Junior outfielder Morgan Rasmason says that the two seniors have set the young UTEP team up for future success.

“Our seniors, Tahla and Ashley, left our program with a solid foundation for the years to come,” Rasmason said. “I’m excited to see how much further we can take it.”

Freshman infielder Hope Moreno hopes that her team will rise to the challenge of replacing such important contributors to the team’s efforts.

“We lost two seniors this year; both had a huge impact on our team – offensively and defensively – so, those will be some big shoes to fill,” Moreno said. “But, we are all going to have to step up and work twice as hard.”

The team’s immediate future will be led by rising junior Koehebailani Netane. The Orlando native will be joined by Rasmason, Danielle Pearson and Jade Rodriguez as the four seniors on next year’s team.

This season, Netane led the team in most batting categories while nursing an injured shoulder down the stretch. A healthy Netane will be looking to improve even more on her outstanding .357 average, eight home runs and four triples.

Three new players will return next season looking to improve on a very good first season in the orange and blue.

Sophomore transfer Kiki Pepi fit in nicely on her new team after coming to UTEP from Pac-12 power Oregon last offseason. Pepi batted .311 with four home runs and 25 RBI.

Two freshmen played the majority of UTEP’s games this season in the infield. Both took a little time to adjust to college softball, but showed plenty of what the team can look forward to for the next three years.

Tayah Sargent batted .232 while playing an outstanding defensive first base. Courtney Clayton batted .305 with seven home runs and 30 RBI in what could most likely be a C-USA Newcomer of the Year award-winning season.

Despite a very disappointing end to the season for two outstanding seniors, the future looks bright for the Miners’ softball team. Echo-Hawk and staff continue to recruit well and train the players under their care to be the best that they can be.

Despite the fact that this season should not be considered a bad one, Moreno may have said it best. “There’s nowhere to go but up.”

Jason Green may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.
Basketball from page B15

“I understand where some may be concerned—I have a daughter of my own,” Floyd said. “This was not a quick decision. A lot of research and conversation occurred before we chose to move forward.”

After his dismissal, Artis spent the last year at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, Calif, working out and practicing—and waiting for a second chance.

He did not participate in any games, therefore he did not lose a year of eligibility.

“I am grateful to coach Floyd for giving me another opportunity, a second chance,” Artis said. “I made a mistake and used poor judgment, but I have learned from that.”

He arrived at Oregon as a top-100 recruit in the nation in 2013. Artis started 25 games as a freshman, including all three NCAA tournament games, leading to an appearance in the Sweet 16. He was a key factor in the Ducks winning 28 games that year.

He lost the starting job his sophomore season, in part because of the nine-game suspension. Artis started six of the 16 games in which he saw action that year.

During his two years in Eugene, Ore., Artis averaged 6.4 points per game, 2.7 assists, 2.1 rebounds per game and 1.2 steals per game. His career-high of 16 points came against Oregon, Artis averaged 6.4 points per game, therefore he did not lose a year of eligibility.

“I am excited about this opportunity,” Floyd said. “Artis is still regarded as an elite, pure point guard—something UTEP has not had for a while.

His addition to the program comes at a good time as well. The Miners’ starting point guard last season, C.J. Cooper, is graduating and his replacement, freshman Omega Harris, might not be suited playing off the ball.

Starting small forward Julian Washburn, who are both headed to the NBA draft, freshman infelder Courtney Clay- ton was one of those who found himself instinctually following the leadership of the experienced Wade. Clayton says that Wade’s example in leadership will help her throughout her college career.

“He has taught me to be more of a vocal leader,” Clayton said. “That’s never been my thing, to talk, and seeing her and how she gets every- one riled up really makes me want to communicate with everyone on the field.”

Wade does not know where she will ultimately end up. She does know that there is traveling in her future. She also wants her teammates to know that no matter where she goes, she will be keeping an eye on the Miners’ softball team.

Wade sees big things in store for the team—including a Conference USA tournament berth—which the team just missed out on this season.

“I think that the program is going to be a force to be reckoned with,” Wade said as her voice began to crack. “We’ve been overlooked for so long and we’re starting to make a name for ourselves.”

Wade continues to refer to the team as “us” and “we,” reinforcing the fact that she truly believes what she said while fighting back tears.

“Once a Miner, always a Miner.”

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Echo-Hawk enjoyed the luxury of having a burner like Wade at the top of the batting order.

“It’s not just her speed, but if you ever watch her when she’s safe at first, she’s just one of the most excited people to be out there and excited that she got on for her team,” Echo-Hawk said. “It’s one of those who only does she get on and set the table for us, she also has that speed threat so we may steal her and not waste that sacrifice.”

As Wade travelled through her time at UTEP, she also found her voice. She is typically very softspoken, but get her on the softball field and she can crank it up.

“I think, at first, she was a leader by example,” Echo-Hawk said. “As the year has progressed she’s really come out of her comfort zone and become a little bit more of a vocal... She just has the powerful voice and when she uses it everybody kind of just stops and looks at her and follows her.”

Freshman infelder Courtney Clay- ton was one of those who found herself instinctually following the leadership of the experienced Wade. Clayton says that Wade’s example in leadership will help her throughout her college career.

“The Miners have a great fan and a tremendous game-day atmosphere.”

Artis is still regarded as an elite, pure point guard—something UTEP has not had for a while.

His addition to the program comes at a good time as well. The Miners’ starting point guard last season, C.J. Cooper, is graduating and his replacement, freshman Omega Harris, might not be suited playing off the ball.
Best sports moments in Spring 2015

1. UTEP track and field hosted three meets at Kidd Field. 2. Against Louisiana Tech on Feb. 27, the UTEP women’s basketball team scored 88 points, their highest point total at home. 3. The UTEP men’s basketball team held Old Dominion to just 47 points on Feb. 14 at the Don Haskins. 4. The El Paso Chihuahuas started their second season with a 13-8 record in April.
A/fter her time in Missouri, James made the jump to Division I and landed in the borderland looking for better competition and bigger accomplishments.

Now in her second year at UTEP, James has continued to perform at a high level, despite the increased competition. In 2014 she was part of the 4x400-meter relay team that took first place at the Conference USA Indoor Championships. During the outdoor season, she received two NCAA honorable mentions for her showing at the NCAA Championships in the 100-meter and 4x100-meter hurdles.

James may be having a challenging year, dealing with a knee injury that has bothered her all season, but she has still found a way to get results on the track. This year, during the indoor season, James aided the women’s team to the program’s first-ever conference championship. At the Conference USA Championships in Birmingham, Ala., James received a silver medal in the 60-meter hurdles.

Dealing with the challenges has been easier because of the support James finds in assistant coach, Lacena Golding Clarke.

“Anna is a very good athlete–she has struggled this year because of injury,” Clarke said. “Hopefully she can get through it and qualify for regionals and end her year well.”

Qualifying to regionals is not impossible. As of now, she is qualified and a place at regionals would be secured with a strong showing at home during the Conference USA Championships. Only five runners are behind her and even if she does not run her best time, she might qualify.

Returning and competing at the national level is not the only goal in mind for James. Achieving All-American status, like she once did at the Division II level, is also in her sights.

“To qualify to regionals and then go to nationals—if I end in the top eight then I’m an All American,” James said. The fact that her collegiate career is coming to a close makes these next few weeks of competition special for James. She is hoping to make them even more significant by having a special fan come to the conference championships at Kidd Field.

“I am trying to get her (mother) over here as a surprise,” James said. “I want her to be here since it is my last conference (meet).”

Her coaches are also pushing her to end her career on a good note and relying on her to help the team repeat what they did during the indoor season. James will play a big role in UTEP’s search for a second-consecutive Women’s Conference USA Championship.

“She is an example for the other girls,” said track and field head coach Mika Laaksonen. “They look to her and she is an example for them.”

James has plans to continue her track career after she graduates. She would like to continue her professional track career before starting her career.

“I want to keep running after I am done running here,” James said. “I want to continue after I am done and then become an accountant or own my own accounting firm.”

The track team will have 16 seniors run at home for the conference championship. The Conference USA Championship will be held at Kidd Field on May 14. For James and the rest of the team, it may be a last chance for the team to finish as a winner.

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Senior golfer Camino Sardinero was voted into the All-Conference USA first team by the league's head coaches. Sardinero is having a career year after becoming just the third player in UTEP history to earn a spot in the NCAA Regionals.

The native of Villanueva De La Cañada will be one of 24 individuals selected to compete in the NCAA Division I Women’s Golf Regional Championships. The tournament will take place in San Antonio at the Briggs Ranch Golf Club on May 7 to 9.

The San Antonio Regional is one of four regionals in which the best six teams, plus the top three individuals not on those teams will advance to the NCAA Women’s Golf Championships May 22 to 27 at Concession Golf Club in Bradenton, Fla.

Sardinero leads the Miners for the third year in a row with a career-low scoring average of 74.2 this season. She finished third at the Conference USA Championship, played in Fort Myers, Fla. on April 20-22 after shooting a career-low 209. She was also named to the All-Tournament Team.

Senior men’s golfer Martin Simonsen was selected to play in one of the six NCAA Regional tournaments to take place next week around the country. The Denmark native will be in Lubbock, TX. at the Rawls Course May 14 to 16 competing for a spot in the NCAA Championships.

Simonsen has finished among the top 10 in four different tournaments, while averaging a career-low 71.8 strokes per round during the 2014-15 season. Simonsen finished fifth at the Conference USA Championships held in Texarkana, Ark. from April 26 to 29, where he shot an even par.

The Lubbock regional will host 12 teams including schools like Texas, Texas Tech, Auburn, North Florida, California, Houston, Louisville and Duke.

The top five teams and the top five individuals on one of those teams will advance to the National Championship Tournament. Simonsen has played at the NCAA Regional tournament twice prior to this year. He finished 27th in 2012 and 12th in 2014.

The NCAA Championships will be in Bradenton, Fla. from May 21 to 28.