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More than a Copy

BY JASMINE AGUILERA

The Prospector

My life before The Prospector is a blur. That may sound like an exaggeration, but before I walked into 105 Union Building five years ago, the thought of my future resembled something like a Picasso painting—the shapes, lines and hues coming together to form an abstract idea of something real.

It was a Sunday when I first walked into the office. I found a team of reporters working on the upcoming Tuesday’s issue. The editor-in-chief, Aaron Martinez, gave me a strange look, as if wondering who would possibly be okay with coming in to work on a Sunday. Years later, he confessed that I annoyed him at first, “not because I didn’t like you,” he said. “You were just so shy, but full of potential, and I was annoyed that you didn’t realize that.”

That’s one of the best things about working at The Prospector. Nearly every student I’ve worked with has been professional and has taken their job very seriously, all while supporting and encouraging the rest of the staff. We’re competitive, but we lift each other up and learn from each other.

The Prospector prepared me for everything that’s coming next. I’ll be graduating on May 14, and then I’ll be moving to Washington, D.C. for an internship at The Prospector. I have spent the majority of my adulthood in and out of college. It’s been like a toxic relationship, you break up and get back together frequently. But eventually, you have to let go. The only difference here is that it really isn’t a toxic relationship. College has broadened my mental horizons and has supplied me with enough intellect to make substantial contributions to conversations at dinners. I’ve absolutely loved my experience during this academic journey, from discovering Descartes’ philosophies, learning to locate accents in certain Spanish words, to learning about Pangaea and tectonic plates. But it’s definitely time to move on.

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Pangs and tectonic plates. But it’s

BY JOSE SOTO

The Prospector

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Pangs and tectonic plates. But it’s
Students to celebrate Rainbow Miner Graduation

By Christian Vazquez

This year’s Rainbow Miner Graduation Ceremony is being held at the Peter and Margaret de Werder Center (Alumni Lodge) on May 15 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. This is an open celebration of graduating seniors who identify in the LGBTQIA+ community.

It is hosted by the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, the Rainbow Initiative from the Student Engagement and Leadership Center, and the UTEP Alumni Pride Network. The event is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to join.

The reception includes a speech by Benjamin Alire Sáenz, a nationally recognized award-winning queer scholar who teaches creative writing at UTEP.

There will be drinks and hors d’oeuvres along with awards that will be presented to students, faculty and staff who are recognized as allies of the community. Each graduating student will receive a certificate of achievement and a rainbow tassel they can wear at graduation.

Juggling college life, future plans, a job and on top of that dealing with the social stigma can be hectic for some in the LGBTQIA+ community. The recognition that students receive during this event is part of an ongoing effort to create a safe space for marginalized groups who face bigotry and discrimination at home and at school.

Gina Núñez-McIntire, interim director of the Women’s and Gender Studies program, said that she has had many students impacted by a lack of acceptance from family and friends.

“This is my experience that any given semester I have a great student and then they stop coming to class. I ask them what happened? They say ‘Well I came out and my dad kicked me out of the house and I don’t have a place to live.’ Núñez said.

According to a study conducted in 2019 by the Association of American Universities, three out of four LGBTQ students reported that they have experienced sexual harassment. The Human Rights Campaign statistics also show that 26 percent of LGBTQ youth, ages 13-17 years old, say their biggest problems stem from family, school and a fear of living openly about their orientation.

“When you are in the middle of thousands of people, you are small, but when you are in a special place where other people see you as you and they’re celebrating you—here you are, someone, I want our students to feel validated and recognized,” Núñez said.

So far, 30 graduating seniors have committed to attending this year’s event. This is a long way from the first Rainbow Miner Graduation in 2008 where only had few students in attendance.

One of the main organizers of the first celebration, Victor Santana-Melczak, who is with the UTEP Alumni Pride Network, spoke about how this tradition first started.

“Attend Arizona State University, they had a similar reception called Gold at the End of the Rainbow, they gave out rainbow tassels and they had a party after it. I thought ‘hey why not throw a party for it?”

Coming from a large school with a large tradition of LGBTQQA offiers, Santana-Melczak was shocked when he first arrived at UTEP and saw a lack of awareness and inclusiveness of the LGBTQIA+ community.

The UTEP Alumni Pride Network supported the celebration with a grant to sponsor the event. It is also a chance for future alumni to network with current alumni. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, a parent group that supports their LGBTQIA+ students and children, donated the rainbow tassels this year.

Angelica Moreno, assistant director for leadership and inclusion at the SELC, is one of the organizers and expressed why this was important to her.

“We know students who have struggled with their identity and not had the support of their university,” Moreno said. “To be able to be a part of a program like this means a lot to me. It lets me know I’m doing something good for our community and it’s a way to give back to the LGBTQ community.”

The deadline for registration for graduating seniors was May 3, but students can still attend the celebration on May 15.

For more information about volunteering or how to donate, email Moreno at amoreno3@utep.edu or call the Student Engagement and Leadership Center at 747-5670.

The Women and Gender Studies office may be reached at 747-5009, and the UTEP Alumni Pride Network may be reached at 747-8600.

By Christian Vazquez

Illustration by Jacobo de la Rosa / The Prospector

MAY 3, 2016
THE PROSPECTOR

NEWS | A3 |
INBRIEF

COMMENCEMENT SCHEDULE

UTEP will hold three commencement ceremonies on Saturday, Dec. 12 at the Don Haskins Center. The Haskins Center will open an hour prior to each ceremony and entrance is free to the public. Graduates will be seated in alphabetical order and will exit through the south tunnel. Baby strollers, balloons, noise makers, tripods and banners are not permitted inside the Don Haskins Center.

Morning ceremony – 9:00 a.m.
College of Liberal Arts

Afternoon Ceremony – 2:00 p.m.
College of Business Administration, College of Education and School of Nursing

Evening Ceremony – 7:00 p.m.
College of Engineering, College of Science and College of Health Sciences
UTEP students also got involved with an anti-campus-carry rally at Lack Cenove in October 2015. With respect to the opposition levied by the student population, McCurry-Andalis made reference to the small amount of people who actually have a concealed handgun license.

“When you look at the facts and figures related to those who have a concealed handgun license, you’re talking about roughly 2.7 percent of the population in Texas,” McCurry-Andalis said. “When you start breaking that down, looking at El Paso County you’re talking about less than half of one percent of the population.”

For McCurry-Andalis, one of the struggles in the process of adopting new legislation has been in the details. Some students have misinterpreted the new law for concealed carry on college campuses as an expansion of open carry.

“What's most important to us is, regardless of this legislation, students, faculty and visitors need to be mindful of their personal safety and seek out resources or help when needed,” she said. “Regardless of legislation, if someone sees a gun on campus at any time, they need to be calling our university police department.”

Nevertheless, some of the student population does not feel safe with the idea of some of their peers carrying guns on campus, no matter how insignificant the percentage.

“It’s a bad idea that I don’t like,” said Omar Quiroz, freshman liberal arts major. “I feel less safe because people get angry for anything. If someone has a gun they can commit something bad, so I think we will be less safe.”

While some students are wholeheartedly against campus carry, other students such as David Cardenas, sophomore criminal justice major, are undecided.

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• FRIDAY: 11AM-4PM AT 1040 N. LEE THEWIN (ON FRONT OF BUILDING)
• SATURDAY: 11AM-4PM AT 910 Dyer St.
(CORNER OF Dyer & Honof Pass)

Image: Ultrasound Mobile

Whether there is or isn’t strike within the student population, McCurry-Andalis believes that come Aug. 1, UTEP will have a successful transition to a concealed carry campus.

“We have to recognize that there is going to be some anxiety and anxiety about what this may mean, but I am also very confident that we are going to get through it,” McCurry-Andalis said. “One of the greatest assets about UTEP is that we are a community that supports one another even if there are differences of opinion between one another.”

 fewer factors may be needed at disproportionately
A spring of ups and downs for Natalicio

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector

As the semester dwindles down, UTEP President Diana Natalicio reflects on the past semester and what is to come. From suffering cardiac arrhythmia while she was walking to the Student Union in February, to being named one of TIME Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in the World, Natalicio has had a roller coaster of a semester.

However, Natalicio is not stopping there. She is using the setback to push herself and the university forward.

"I've always been blessed with enormous energy reserves and, perhaps most importantly, I am extremely passionate and enthusiastic about the work we are doing at UTEP with the extraordinary students we serve," Natalicio said in an email interview. "When you love what you do, it's always easy to do a little more, and then a little more after that."

She is currently the longest serving president of a public university and has served UTEP for 28 years, since her start at the university. Natalicio has seen the school evolve and could imagine nothing else.

"This recognition (TIME Magazine) is very much a reflection on School of Pharmacy students from the past several decades," Natalicio said. "We are today a totally different institution in terms of academic programs, in research and, perhaps most importantly, in attitude and institutional self-confidence. We are clear about and proud of our mission and united in working hard to achieve it."

Even though the recognition was aimed at Natalicio, she believes that it will add more credibility to the standards that the school is setting.

"(The recognition) brings increased visibility to UTEP and our mission to provide highly competitive educational programs to a historically underserved student demographic," Natalicio said.

Despite the few downhill slumps, the spring semester brought mostly highs to the school, according to Natalicio, including the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the 1966 men's basketball championship team.

UTEPP held a celebration at Memorial Gym in February as part of a filming of a CBS documentary about the champion team aired nationally several times during March. The NCAA recognized the 1966 team again in a tribute during Final Four weekend in Houston in early April.

"Below a bold UTEP logo on the giant video board above the arena floor, our 1966 team members assembled to receive the huge crowds' respect and cheers," Natalicio said. "What a wonderful sight and such a well-deserved tribute to our talented and courageous Misters."

She also has numerous ideas and goals for the future. Her, along with her team, are planning for a new interdisciplinary research building in place of the Burger and Barry Halls. She mentioned plans to start a new School of Pharmacy and offering a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. These are just some of the plans she wants to implement in the coming years.

"We have been working on a very exciting comprehensive student success plan, developed in conjunction with our accreditation re-affirmation review, which seeks to integrate a number of specific initiatives across the campus designed to ensure UTEP graduates' competitiveness with their peers anywhere in the world," Natalicio said.

With the semester dwindling down, Natalicio will prepare for commencement where she will attend all three ceremonies.

"It's a wonderful feeling to see the growing number of UTEP graduates who cross the stage at commencement," Natalicio said. "I'm especially excited to consider the huge impact that this graduation milestone represents not only in the lives of the graduates themselves, but of their families and the prosperity and quality of life of this entire region."

When you love what you do, it's always easy to do a little more, and then a little more after that.

- Diana Natalicio, UTEP President

With the sending forth words, Natalicio has a piece of advice she wants to share with the graduates:

"Be proud of what you've already accomplished and confident that you are well prepared through your UTEP education to pursue whatever post-graduate path you may want to follow," Natalicio said. "The quality of your UTEP degree is now widely recognized and highly valued. Seek a future pathway that you truly enjoy."

Milka Brudlos may be reached at mbrudlos@utep.edu.
Union prepares for Up All Night

By Gloria Heredia

With finals next week, the Office of Student Life along with the Division of Student Affairs will be hosting Midnight Breakfast: Up All Night, a semi-annual UTEP tradition. The event will take place on Tuesday, May 10 at the Union East building. Jaime Mendez, director of the Student Support Program, is currently in charge of the volunteers for this semester.

"Right now we are looking at getting between 60 and 70 volunteers to staff different areas of our Up All Night event," Mendez said.

Mendez said the purpose of this event is to support the student body during finals week and help them manage stress through diverse activities. Some of the activities include the screening of the movie "The Breakfast Club" which will show at the Union Cinema at 10 p.m., to blend with the nature of the midnight breakfast.

"We have everything, from rooms in which we call the Stress-Free Zone, where we have coloring books, relaxing music and play dough for people to take a break from finals," Mendez said. "We also have our game room, which is just board games such as Jeopardy, cards, anything for them to play in groups."

Yoga sessions will be provided for the students to relax along with the music. Sophomore multimedia journalism major, Alexandra Dominguez, said that one of her stress relievers is music.

"What makes me relax in a crisis, such as finals week, is to have some comfort music to go and play my mind off a little bit." Dominguez said, "To walk, to eat a little, and have some beverage that I like to hydrate myself, and music. Music is in a great way to free one's stress."

Gonzalo Garza, sophomore mechanical engineering major, attended the Midnight Breakfast twice in the past.

"My favorite event ever," Garza said. "Hanging out with friends was really fun, and the food was nice. I've gone twice, but I'm planning on going to the next one."

It has been estimated that 1,200 students have shown up to the event in previous years. Volunteers are needed to help out in the different activities. Volunteers will be needed to serve breakfast. Mendez said he encourages faculty and students to volunteer instead of students.

"We really want it to be our staff, like the university staff, because this is a way of supporting our students during the finals period," Mendez said. "We don't want students that are taking finals serving. We want our staff to be out there and show their support for the student body."

The Union will be open from 9 p.m. until 6 a.m. for all students.

"I think it's great for the university to provide those activities and spaces for the students," Dominguez said. "That shows that they care for the students and that they want a more united community."
Outstanding seniors get awarded

Keighton Ryanne Allen
Economics

Paulina Almada Felix
Mechanical Engineering

Oscar R. Casanova
Finance, Financial Analyst Concentration

Roya Edalatpour
Electrical Engineering

Rodrige Lugo
Biological Sciences

“"We want younger students to see what these top seniors have accomplished. We want them to be inspired by them, to think of them as "Hey I want to do what they have done,"" said Richard Daniel, executive director of Alumni Relations.

A banquet was held on April 29 at the Tennis River Conference Center located on the third floor of the Union Building East. UTEP President Diana Natalicio was present at the event, where she read the bios of each student and congratulated them with their senior award.

Being a top 10 senior is not about getting the highest grade or an exam, or presenting the best project in class. For Oscar Casanova, a senior finance major who will be working for Goldman Sachs in Dallas, an American multinational investment banking firm, there is much more behind this accomplishment.

For Casanova, being a top 10 senior was about being involved on campus and doing what you love.

Casanova was the president of the Business College Council, a Miner Ambassador, a career peer advisor and an accounting assistant.

"It takes a lot of commitment and initiatives, not only excellent academically, but also taking initiatives of being part of student organizations and doing internships, seeking out mentors in the university, and maybe working at the same time," Casanova said. "It's about mixing all these things while being a student."

Rubio was able to participate in community service work as well as intern at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company, a global security and aerospace company. She advises freshman students to get involved early in their college career.

"Start looking for opportunities now. The sooner the better for you, and don’t slack your grades. Your GPA is the first step to be a good student," Rubio said. "Students don’t realize how many opportunities UTEP offers you just have to go and take them."

Daniel said he believes that all the applicants are great students, top 10 senior or not.

“They are just as exemplary as the other students,” Daniel said. “It is a difficult choice, we have a tremendous amount of great students on this campus. I want them to continue moving forward in their goals and continuous making a difference and to give back to this institution because there will always a place for them here at UTEP.”

see SENIORS on page A13
Seniors from page A12

Casamayor said he is grateful to UTEP and its staff for allowing him to grow as a person and as a scholar.

“I will never forget whom I came from because it is thanks to UTEP that I am where I am,” he said. “I see myself back at UTEP one day. Maybe starting an endowment, a scholarship for future UTEP students, to encourage them to be part of this amazing community. Maybe even teach here.”

Rodrigo Lugo, a senior biological sciences major and one of the top 10 seniors, was the co-founder, vice-president and president of To Write Love on Her Arms, which is part of the national organization dedicated to help people dealing with depression, addiction, self-injury and thoughts of suicide.

With graduation right around the corner, Lugo wanted to congratulate the class of 2016.

“Congratulations to all,” he said. “I know it was hard journey for me to get here and I’m pretty sure it was hard for everybody else. It’s like the end of our journey in college, but it’s only the beginning of our journey through life, and there is so much we are capable of and so much things we are going to do in our lives.”

Jose Delgadillo may be reached at jdelgadil@utep.edu.
UTEPI’s reaccreditation process shines light on potential

BY LUIS GONZALEZ
The Prospector

United States universities must go through an accreditation process every 10 years to be recognized as a degree-granting higher education institution. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, SACSCOC, is in charge of evaluating educational institutions in the southern states to make sure they provide services worthy of a higher education institution.

“The university in the country has to go through this in order to be able to grant degrees, but it’s also an opportunity for us,” said David Ratter, associate provost. “It gives us the opportunity to think about how we’re going to do even better in the 10 years that are coming up.”

UTEPI was one of the many universities to undergo the process this year. During the process, SACSCOC evaluators visit institutions on integrity, qualifications of faculty and staff, mission fulfillment, curriculum, academic support and fiscal practices. UTEP received outstanding feedback from SACSCOC on what it has done in the past decade and what it plans to do in the next one.

The reaffirmation of accreditation portion of the process consists of university officials showing SACSCOC that UTEP has all of the resources and services in place worthy of an accredited university. Toni Blum, assistant provost and chair of the reaffirmation steering committee, compiled paperwork and reports showing the university meets all requirements. After the paperwork is submitted and reviewed, a site visit occurs where a special committee makes sure everything that was on paper is really taking place on campus.

“They want to meet with students, they want to meet with staff, they want to meet with faculty, they want to meet with administrators,” Blum said. “They want to really get a sense of, ‘Is UTEP really doing all of the things it says it’s doing?’”

The site visit, which lasts about two-and-a-half days, culminates with a set of recommendations from the visiting committee that the university must address in order to be reaccredited. The university has time to make changes before the final accreditation vote in December.

“The thing that you want for being reaffirmed is to be affirmed with no recommendations,” Blum said.

After meeting with faculty, staff, administrators and students, the visiting committee came to the conclusion that UTEP met all requirements and needed no recommendations—something that, according to SACSCOC, does not happen often.

Among the things that stood out to the committee were the impact of UTEP’s mission and the use of data in improving the services it provides.

“One thing that I think they were blown away by was the way in which the mission of UTEP is part of everything we do,” Blum said. “That was something that really was refreshing and surprising to them. That no matter who they spoke to, people were talking about access and excellence.”

“The second part of the reaffirmation for accreditation process deals with the future. Every university develops a plan for the next 10 years called a Quality Enhancement Plan. UTEP’s plans for the next 10 years also received great feedback.”

“This new plan is exciting for all of us because we’re at a point where we are truly being able to use the incredible assets that our student population brings to us,” Butler said. “After all these years of experience at the university and in the city, we have an even clearer vision about how we can support our students forward.”

UTEPI’s QEP focuses on the idea of providing UTEP students with all the resources necessary to succeed once they leave the university. Highlighted in the plan are efforts to engage students with what the plan calls high-impact practices. Internships, student employment, study abroad and service learning are all identified as high-impact practices.

“Toni Blum, Assistant Provost

One thing that I think they were blown away by was the way in which the mission of UTEP is part of everything we do.

As someone who has been involved in the university’s mission for many years, Blum said the QEP was the main focus of the visiting team during the site visit. The excitement about it was obvious when the lead evaluator almost broke down in tears talking about UTEP’s plans for the future. I think having met with some students was really what the powerful motivator was for him,” Blum said. “Realizing how transformational UTEP has been in its lives and also, really, and I think this is a kind of important piece of the puzzle, how transformational students have been for UTEP.”

*UTEP students may be reached at the Prospector hotline. www.utep.edu/utd / recsports@utep.edu 915-747-5103
What's something you will miss about UTEP when you graduate?

**DANIELA MARINES**
Senior women’s and gender studies major
“I am mostly going to miss my professors. I have had really good ones that help me out with writing essays and scholarship tips. I will miss the support they’ve given me and also the friendships that I’ve made here.”

**RAUL COBOS**
Senior accounting major
“I am going to miss the social life, having friends and even the long hours of studying.”

**GIGI VALLES**
Senior criminal justice major
“I am going to miss everything! In general, having friends, having somewhere to go everyday campus life and feeling like I have a purpose.”

**RUBEN MELENDEZ**
Senior biology major
“I will miss going to my professors office and talking to them about class work plans and just general science.”

**GENESIS AREOLO**
Senior health promotion major
“I am going to miss being so familiar with the whole dynamic of the campus, and seeing my mom everyday because she works here.”

**ALONDRA AVILA**
Senior psychology major
“I am going to miss the exercise and constantly having something to do all the time.”

**FEDERICO LOPEZ**
Senior business major
“I am going to miss making new friends in my classes.”

**GABRIELA SALDANA**
Senior anthropology major
“I am going to miss being in organizations that help me personally and academically evolve.”

**BRANDON CHAVEZ**
Senior psychology major
“I am going to miss the recreation center.”

**IVONNE ESPINOZA**
Senior nursing major
“I am going to miss making friends, and Sandy’s.”

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**2016 SPRING COMMENCEMENT**

**MORNING CEREMONY- 9:00 A.M.* **
College of Liberal Arts

**AFTERNOON CEREMONY- 2:00 P.M.* **
College of Business Administration
College of Education
School of Nursing

**EVENING CEREMONY- 7:00 P.M.* **
College of Engineering
College of Science
College of Health Sciences

Saturday, May 14, 2016
Don Haskins Center

*All Ceremonies include graduate degrees corresponding to these Colleges.

WWW.UTEP.EDU/SPRINGCOMMENCEMENT
Getting to know the new SGA president

BY AMANDA GUILLEN

The Prospector

The Student Government Association will have a new president in June. Sophomore operations chain supply management major Sergio Baltazar was elected on April 22 and ran independently.

Despite being discouraged to run as an independent, Baltazar felt he would be able to accomplish more during the campaigning process if he ran without a party.

Baltazar, 22, is an international student from Guadalajara, Mexico. While visiting friends in El Paso, Baltazar stayed at the Hilton Garden Inn on University Avenue, and said he found himself exploring, like he usually does when he visits a new place.

He walked onto campus and immediately thought that UTEP would be out of his price range. To his surprise, he found out that UTEP was affordable, more so than the universities in Guadalajara.

Baltazar moved to El Paso and immediately began taking classes at UTEP. In his two years at the university he dove into extracurricular activities.

He was recently the president of Vision México, president of his pledge class for Delta Sigma Pi, a business fraternity, and a member of Alpha Phi Omega, a community service fraternity.

Baltazar said that he believed he made the smart decision to run as an independent during the SGA race.

“I was not agreeing with the way they were running things because SGA has a huge potential for us as students here, and most students don’t know what SGA is,” Baltazar said.

“Here there are people that actually think that SGA people are above the other students and it’s not supposed to be that way. It is supposed to be that we are under students trying to get things done.”

During his campaign, Baltazar visited different colleges around campus and asked students what they felt needed to be done.

Baltazar pointed out the fine arts students had a lot to say and that they often feel excluded from the university. He also said he spoke to a psychology student who raised his concerns over the water fountains in the psychology building that are out of service.

Although he is nervous that he won’t be able to address all of the students’ concerns, he said that he hopes he can do the best he can to engage students more with SGA.

“I want to make a difference by making SGA approachable and also having SGA go to the students and ask them what they need,” Baltazar said.

Some of his key propositions during his campaign were to increase the number of shaded areas on campus, better and more transparent budget allocations for students, implementation of map stations around campus and transportation from the international bridges for students.

Baltazar said that he is excited to begin his presidency, which begins June 1. He also said that he is grateful to everyone who spoke to him and took the time to vote.

“I want to thank everyone who believed in me,” Baltazar said. “It’s kind of fascinating how other people actually believe in other people. That gives me the confidence to work hard and accomplish everything I said.”

Amanda Guillen may be reached at theprospector@utep.edu.

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To fill out the survey scan the QR Code on the left with your phone, or visit the link below.

http://studentvoice.com/utep/2016theprospectorreadershipsurvey
Underdogs will be worth your time at Neon Desert

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The Prospector

Over 40 artists and bands will hit the stage in less than three weeks for the sixth-annual Neon Desert Music Festival that will be held May 28 and 29 in downtown El Paso.

Although some consider this festival’s release to be as weaker caliber, the depth of the lineup goes far more than simply lower-level names. Much of the lineup includes artists who are not that well known, but are definitely noteworthy and should be checked out during the event. Below are some of the more unheard of artists to check out and possibly watch live at the shows.

MUTEMATH — Alt/Rock

Check out — “Typical,” “Light Up” and “Memento.”

Whoever said rock ‘n roll is dead has not listened to MUTEMATH. The New Orleans band has been making music since 2003 and continues to appeal to the alternative rock-goes. Their deep guitar riffs clash with heavy drums to make their style so impressive. Their new album, “Vitalis,” is fundamentally sound, and although it does not take too many risks, it proves to be a solid listen. Even though they are not the most critically acclaimed group, these four rock groups use the band as inspiration for their Southeastern sound.

STRFKR — Indie/Electronic

Check out — “Never Ever,” “Isabel of Castile” and “Zalmen.”

STRFKR seems like it was locked in a time capsule from the 1980s and sprung out to revitalise the indie-pop scene. The three-man band is also not stranger to the San City with numerous previous appearances in El Paso, including a Neon Desert slot back in 2013. After a three-year hiatus from recording new music, the band previewed a project in the making with the release of their new single, “Never Ever.” This band is definitely one to check out with their groovy, trippy, aesthetic vibe.

Nickyee Heaton — R&B

Check out — “Bad Intentions,” “Infinity” and “I’m Ready.”

Last year, Neon Desert brought Khalil, who at the time was unboarded and regarded as an up-and-coming artist. By the end of 2015, everyone knew about the amazing songwriter for her R&B talents. This year, the music festival brings a new, on-the-rise act with Nickiee Heaton. He is a producer’s dream due to her cool and distinct vocals. Heaton, who became famous by recording YouTube covers, now shows more talent in her sophomore album, “The Bedroom Tour Playlist.”

G Herbo — Hip-hop

Check out — “Peace of Mind,” “Loyal Knows” and “100 Days 100 Nights.”

The Chicago rap game is one to be reckoned with, and G Herbo brokers all the boundaries of a Chi-Town hip-hop artist. The 19-year-old has experienced some eye-opening, scary occurrences during the short span of his life, which is all showcased in his freshman album, “Ballin’ Like I’m Koba.” Herbo takes on the trap-rap genre and it is evident he uses influences from Chief Keef, another hip-hop Chicago native. His flow speaks about gang-violence, drug influences and are narrations of his life on the Chicago streets.

Wilk & Misky — Synth/Indie

Check Out — “I Want Your Love,” “Crap Your Hands” and “Bebe I’m Yours.”

The London-based indie duo is taking their talents through the states during their tour, which will make a stop at Neon Desert. They use synthetic keys, western acoustic guitar and indie-driven vocals to make for an easy-going listen. They are very popular in Mexico, so their performance may attract a hefty crowd.

Rare Individuals — Alt Hip-hop

Check out — “Rate Town” and “I Got This.”

The hip-hop group based in El Paso composed of Darelle Brook, Andy Ceballos, Larelle Jones and Josh Brown, are a noteworthy local hip-hop group. The group raps about societal problems and uses El Paso newcomers in their songs. Although there has not been a full project released by the group, once the group does drop an album, it is sure to be a local hit.

Strat Z — Indie Hip-hop

Check out — “Waves,” “Face The Music” and “Some Days.”

When you combine alternative hip-hop and indie rock, you get Strat Z. The local band, fronted by lead vocals and guitar Stu Zeha, also combines hip-hop influences with the help of rapper idea. They experiment with different sound wars to make for groovy, eclectic music. Strat Z debuts LP, “Igo Love,” is a hit and they continue to make noise in the El Paso local music scene.

ANIMALSOUL — Alt/Rock

Check out — “You,” “Song 4” and “Glorious”

The band of brothers—plus one—makes up ANIMALSOUL. The West Texas group utilizes all of their musical influences—rock, punk, and hip-hop—to their advantage. Their modern style of alternative rock makes for a charming listen.

Two-day tickets are still available at neondesertmusicfestival.com for $19 and VIP tickets are $320, which includes complimentary shuttle, re-entry to the festival and separate entrances and exits. For the full lineup, visit the official website.

All photos by The Prospector.

The sixth-annual Neon Desert Music Festival will be held May 28 and May 29 in downtown El Paso.

FILE PHOTOS: THE PROSPECTOR

G Herbo

The Chicago rap game is one to be reckoned with, and G Herbo brokers all the boundaries of a Chi-Town hip-hop artist. The 19-year-old has experienced some eye-opening, scary occurrences during the short span of his life, which is all showcased in his freshman album, "Ballin’ Like I’m Koba." Herbo takes on the trap-rap genre and it is evident he uses influences from Chief Keef, another hip-hop Chicago native. His flow speaks about gang-violence, drug influences and are narrations of his life on the Chicago streets.
Our view

PHOTO EDITOR

MICHAELA ROMÁN, 747-7477

Best concert photos of spring 2016

(Michaela Roman / The Prospector)

Left: Rapper G-Eazy performs at the Don Haskins Center on April 24. (Top right) Indie rock band Foals perform at the Don Haskins Center on March 16 as part of the Spring Fling tour. (Bottom right) Alt rock band Cage the Elephant headlines on the Spring Fling tour on March 16.

Fab Lab uses modern technology in their designs

BY MIKE VASQUEZ

The Prospector

Fabrication Laboratory, El Paso’s hub for the latest 3D-printing technology, has been housed in an unsuspecting concrete building at 806 Montana for two years now. By providing training in using technology and materials for individual projects, Fab Lab provides the city the ability to keep up with the age’s newest design tools.

Since its opening in 2014, Executive Director Gustavo Arriaga has been dedicated to increasing the lab’s resources in number and functionality. "When we first began, we were using an Xbox Kinect camera to digitally scan models," Arriaga said. "Still, the same technology, but now we have specialized programs and cameras that we can use with tablets for more efficient scans."

Ramping up their arsenal of design tools, Fab Lab now has six 3D printers dedicated to printing a range of models, from storm troopers to Buddha in a Batman mask, two laser cutters that allow people to precisely cut designs out of large sheets of material and two 3D-scanners and programs used to manipulate models on a computer.

Walking into the Fab Lab is like walking into an art gallery. Geometric animal masks and figurines line the walls and wooden tables. The chairs are engraved with intricate designs. They all share one thing in common: everything was made in the Fab Lab. "Most of everything here was made here," Arriaga said to a group of Clint Junior High School students during a workshop. He points to a machine that stretches the length of a dinner table. "The chairs you’re sitting on were made on that laser cutter right over there."

The applications of these versatile laser cutters, 3D printers and scanners do not end in goofy action figures or quick art. Alejandro Cuaron, a senior metallurgical/materials and biomedical engineering major, works for the W. M. Keck Center for 3D Innovation and has seen the potential this technology has for society.

“I see a lot of parts that are for mechanical testing," Cuaron said. "I have seen printed parts from video games, but also prosthetic parts. The one we have (at the Keck Center) for sure is a knee replacement. It’s biocompatible and the advantage of 3D printing is that it can be made specifically to someone’s body."

As the technology becomes more easily produced, innovations like replacement knees will soon sprout in the fields of medicine and engineering. "The technology is there," Cuaron said. "It’s just finding more materials. Once you find more materials to use, the number of applications grows."

Fab Lab dedicates its efforts to teaching the public how to master these technologies. Private workshops for both a group of curious friends or elementary school classes may be scheduled on their website, fablabelpaso.org. Quotes on production cost of individual projects, along with a list of public events, can also be found on the Fab Lab website.

Mike Vasquez may be reached at theprospectordaily.ENT@gmail.com.
Drake continues to put ‘the 6’ on the map with the release of ‘Views’

By Adrian Broaddus
The Prospector

After over a year, Drake finally dropped his highly anticipated fourth studio album, “Views” on April 29, marking the Toronto rapper’s return to the music scene. Prior to the album’s release, Drake mentioned the record would have a lot of music and the listener will “have your full share of Drake music for the summer and for the year. Forever.”

The 20-track compilation is outpacing Drake said, “a collection of diverse music that feels timeless” during a podcast stream on OVO Sound. The album resembles a combination between two of his previous albums, using forset raps such as in "Nothing Was the Same," and emotionally-driven vocals such as in "Take Care." The production stands out the most on the album, due to a separation from softer, more vocalized tracks to hip-hop bangers.

Pioneering the wave for a new style of music, Drake continues to modernize his music on "Views," and it is shown instantly on the album’s debut single, "Keep the Family Close." The record’s theme is the changing seasons in Toronto, Ontario, Canada—the trap-based rap songs are tailored toward the summer, while the R&B tracks backtrack to the winter. On “Keep the Family Close,” Drake opens up with rigorous vocals and wonky lyrics that refer to the past. Let’s face it, pop music has been so commercialized that every song on the radio is beginning to sound repetitive and annoying. However, on this album Drake finds new ways to combine his style of Toronto rap, pop, and revolutionize it. "Feel No Ways" is a groovy, swift track that has easy listening vocals, while "Too Good," featuring Rihanna, is probably the best pop hit of the album.

The album’s bangers are not extremely distinctive, but one of Drake’s most noteworthy tracks is the confidence found in his lyrics, which seems to benefit these tracks. His self-reliance on flows helps to create these ever-changing songs, such as "Grammys," "Hype," "West 4th Flowz" and "2." Alongside one of his best sidekicks, Future, on "Grammys," Drake speaks about his prolific legacy: "OVO we a gold mine/But I’m gold in no time." Drake can often say questionable lyrics on these bangers, but he says it with such poise that the audience then feeds off of them. He reaches a new style throughout the album, which was unexpected for the record. "Child’s Play" samples a chopped track and uses a drum beat to make for a unique sound. "Faithful" takes the deceased rapper Pimp C and uses him on a verse, while Drake mixes rigid rap with instant vocals. "Control" drives through wavy beats and is such a illustrious track as he uses sexual lyrics to attract the listener. "Do It," featuring PARTYNEXTDOOR, reflects the epitome of the newfound renaissance Drake successfully accomplished on the album.

The question is not whether the album is noteworthy, but where it will rank at the end of Drake’s career. In the 80-plus minutes of the record, it is already becoming one of the top projects that Drake has released due to its depth.

Three months down the line, this album will be drastically booming on music platforms and flooding social media with one-liners. Drake is one of the most indefatigable artists of this era and there is sure to be many diamonds throughout the album that will emerge to the spotlight in the coming months. The difference from his past albums and mixtapes to this record is that "Views" sounds timeless; this album will continue to influence Toronto rappers and others for generations.
Top 5 bars where you can celebrate graduation

BY JOSE SOTO
The Prospector

As graduation looms, it’s stressful enough, now you have to decide where to go to celebrate your accomplishment. There are a few spots in town that will make perfect hosts for your festivities. Here is a list of places to consider:

1) Moxiem: The Mexican restaurant and bar is ideal for friendly gatherings. It’s located at 5001 N. Mesa St., is a perfect balance of Mexican cultural elements fused with trendy nightlife. The building is industrial meets your grandma’s living room, with vibrant, neon colors. The outside patio is perfect for May weather as well.

2) Rooftop Skybar + Grill: If you’re looking for something more upscale, Rooftop is a perfect choice. Situated at the top of a building in 4200 Camino Heights, the rooftop bar is great for outdoor parties. If the place is slightly hidden, which might work in your favor for something more intimate and private. Overlooking Main Street, you can celebrate with delicious menu items or enjoy some drinks, including a $10 bottomless michelada on Saturdays from 3 to 8 p.m., which is convenient for the May 14 date.

3) Loner, Loner: This bar is one of the most visually pleasing in town. Loner, Loner, located at 109 N Calle Wiley St., is big enough for a large group. The outside patio is ideal for conversations amongst friends and family as it overlooks the beautiful El Paso/Ciudad Juarez border. Their now-famous neon pink sign that reads “lone, baby, lonely” is also perfect for some post-graduation photos. Loner, Loner carries a wide variety of craft beers, including some selections from Deschutes Brewery, a local beer brewing company.

CHRISTOPHER ZACHARIA / THE PROSPECTOR

4) The Speakeasy: One of the newest bars in town. The Speakeasy, located at 306 E. Franklin St., is an underground bar that is spacious enough to host a large group of people. Their entrances are located on the sides of Franklin and Stanton streets and feature a series of steps, leading to their underground space. The employees dress as old-fashioned bartenders with dressy vests. The Speakeasy also has a big dance floor if you want to groove the night away and a complimentary pool table if you’d rather take it easy... at the Speakeasy.

5) 301 Nightlife: El Paso has plenty of bars, but it’s not widely known for club life. Luckily, the city has 301, an establishment true to its nature. 301 Nightlife is huge. It often hosts DJs and producers from various electronic music genres, which gives you an idea of how big the building is. Its top-notch audio and visual production is impressive, and various speakers located throughout the club and screens displaying high-tech visuals accompanying the music. If you’re looking for a good club experience, this would be it. VIP tables surround the dance floor, so if you’re looking to buy a bottle, their comfortable, private tables are great for a group of friends as you can be your own stylist while still enjoying the music.

Other suggestions include Backyard, Grey Dog Bar, Brie, Patch, and Hope and Anchor. Just sit in a booth at the prospectorweekly.com and you’ll see.

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Thank you to my family for their support, I finally did it! I want to give special thanks to my children.

Gracias papa por apoyarme desde el primer día, tus palabras son guía y tú eres mi héroe.

Valeria Delgado

I want to thank my family for their support and love, and the friends who supported me. I made it, I finally got in. Thank you to everyone who helped me. I am so thankful.

Cameron & Lillian

Thank you to all of my family for supporting me through this journey. It has been tough, but I finally made it. I love you all very much!

Zara "Las"

Thank you to my wonderful, loving family and close friends, we made it.

Cameron & Lillian

Thank you to all of the people who supported me and helped me get to where I am today. Thank you to my family and friends for always being there for me.

Carroll & Lillian

Thank you to everyone who helped me make it possible.

Annabelle & Cameron

Thank you to everyone who supported me and helped me get to where I am today. Thank you to my family and friends for always being there for me.

Carroll & Lillian

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Annabelle & Cameron

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Carroll & Lillian
Couple finds love through mutual passion for dance

BY AMANDA GUILLEN
The Prospector

As they walk from class to and from Centennial Plaza, Gabriela Moreno and Julian Maldonado gracefully steal through campus hand in hand, at times looking into each other’s eyes and smiling.

Even if you didn’t know they were dancers, you would be able to tell by the way their legs rhythmically sway past each other, their postures upright and elegant.

Maldonado, 22, and Maldonado, 24, met three and a half years ago during their first year at UTEP while studying contemporary dance.

Now, just a couple of weeks away from graduation, they are excited for their future, although it may be uncertain.

A few months after they met they began performing together. Spending time together both in classes and rehearsals led to a friendship that became a support system. That friendship slowly grew.

“I think dance has provided us just a huge conversation that is never ending because he has his ideas and I have mine,” Moreno said. “We have our opinions, it is just nice to have someone to bounce back and forth and who understand where you are coming from.”

Moreno said that they don’t have time for date nights or alone time, despite having the same major.

“A lot of people think we are lucky because we have the same major, but we never see each other, this interview is actually the only time we have seen each other, Moreno said. “We see each other, but we don’t actually get to be with each other.”

Moreno knew dancing was something that she always wanted to do, but for Maldonado it was something that he had kept a secret from everyone until he began at UTEP.

Originally, Maldonado’s family had decided he would attend West Point Military Academy. In New York, Maldonado did have his eyes set on the city, but not the academy.

Before arriving at UTEP Maldonado attended different colleges before he found a fit here at UTEP and eventually met Moreno.

Last summer the couple traveled to Florence, Italy to attend a dance intensive, a summer-long dance bootcamp-style course.

“We learned so much by just seeing how people present themselves and what they care about and what they value in Italy,” Maldonado said.

Along with traveling out of the country, both Maldonado and Moreno have been looking ahead post graduation, which will take place on May 14.

Moreno applied and was accepted into the Alwin Alley Dance Theatre, which is a professional dance school and company in New York. The program that Moreno was chosen for selects students from all over the country and is a six-week program that will begin in June and conclude in August.

Maldonado also applied for the same program, but was not accepted.

These instances in their relationship are ones that they say have helped strengthen their connection, despite it being impersonal.

“It takes a lot of self-esteem and confidence in yourself to be proud of your significant other because I know at first for me it was hard to accept his success because Tim Eke ‘woken’ mines, mines mines and you reach a point where you just love a person so much that those thoughts go away and you can do anything else other than be proud of what they have accomplished,” Moreno said. “I am just so happy that I’ve reached that point with him. That is it no longer envy or jealousy.”

With excitement in his voice Maldonado said that he had auditioned for “Hamilton,” the critically acclaimed and Oscar-winning musical—earlier this month in Los Angeles. He should be hearing back from producers in the coming weeks.

With their senior capstone projects and their final exams at UTEP coming to an end, the couple said, although they are serious to leave, they will miss their long days and nights at school.

“Even though we never get to spend time with each other, we are around each other all the time and that is something that I truly am going to miss, because I know for a fact that our professions won’t allow us to be together, especially since what I like to do is musical theater or acting and Gabby does a lot of hard-core dance,” Maldonado said. “We think the same, but we are opposite in movement.”

With a sigh, the couple describes the worry that comes with the uncertainty of their futures. Although they don’t know what the next 10 years will bring for them, one thing they were certain about is that they see a future with each other.

“Their dream is to open up a dance studio together once their permanent home is fixed,” Moreno said.

The couple has come along way during their four years at UTEP through performing as the leads in some UTEP Dinner Theatre productions, ballet and also performing for the Human Nature Contemporary Ballet, they have maintained and balanced love.

They hope that upon their graduation, they left an impact on the program and their peers.

Maldonado said that passion is something that is important for all dancers and she hopes that her passion for dance is something that others will learn from.

“I think it is so important to constantly remind yourself of why you are doing this and what is the reason you are doing this, because I think we lose ourselves,” she said. “It is a very easy field to give up in just because it is so competitive.”

Morena Guilleen may be reached at @amandaguillen. or guilleen.amanda@gmail.com.
Former Miner guard Camaeahna Turner will pursue a law degree at the University of Notre Dame.

AT IMIAD BROADDUS
The Prospecto

It was just like any other day at the Foster Stevens Center as senior women’s basketball squad Camaeahna Turner was finishing up her workout. Little did she know that the events after practice would change her life.

As she flipped through her phone after her routine workout at the practice facility, Turner received an email from Notre Dame University, where she had applied to law school. She took a deep breath and clicked on the email, which congratulated her on her acceptance.

“This was the goal she had envisioned for herself from the first day she got to UTEP. She wanted to play college basketball at the Division I level and then go off to a prominent law school. “My heart dropped,” Turner said. “It was a bittersweet moment. I wasn’t expecting it, but also wasn’t counting it out. It was just the feeling of all my hard work paying off and it actually come into reality. I was kind of excited, but shocked at the same time.”

According to Turner, the message was extra sweet since she had just been practicing at the facility that gave her back so much. “It was a coincidence being there and finding out,” Turner said. “I was like basketball-Notre Dame—I found out I got accepted after playing basketball, so it was pretty cool.”

Now, Turner will graduate from UTEP with a degree in criminal justice on May 14. During the span of her four years, she believes that all her goals were surpassed on and off the court.

“The only disappointment was not making it to the NCAA Tournament, but overall I’ve reached goals that I never thought I would achieve,” Turner said. “The one goal I set out for myself was being a student athlete, that’s what I prided myself on. I did that for the most part, so it was a blessing in both ways.”

During the span of her four years on the Miners’ basketball squad, Turner experienced the best and worst parts of the team.

She had playing time as a true freshman in the 2012-13 season and appeared in 28 games as a key off the bench player. The impressive start to her collegiate career translate to her sophomore season. Turner started in 36 games and was labeled as the best defender on the squad. This season was even more impressive due to the WNIT championship run that the squad had.

Although she went through a high during her sophomore year, her junior year was a slump for the team. Jensen Nash and Christiana Parker, two major assets on the team, were sidelined for the season, which left the reins in Turner’s hands. She led the team in points per game (13.0) and rebounds per game (6.0).

Her senior year was the most noteworthy. She was second on the team for points per game (13.1), led the team in field goal percentage (495) and assists per game (3.0). She contributed heavily to the Miners’ perfect home record during the regular season and helped the team achieve a regular season Conference USA first place title.

Turner described her time playing basketball for the Miners in one word: perfect. “All the fans coming out to every game and sharing special moments with them made it worth going out there and play,” Turner said.

The only disappointment was not making it to the NCAA Tournament, but overall I’ve reached goals that I never thought I would achieve,” Turner said. “When I went to visit Notre Dame last week, I played a pick-up game.”

“I’m still going to work out and join one of the intramural teams they have out there. I’ll still be playing and staying sharp.”

She believes that basketball can serve as an outlet for her future busy lifestyle and study schedule.

“Going to law school and being able to get away, sweat a little bit, relieve some frustration and get away for a while and play the game I love is a blessing to me,” Turner said.

Her goals when she first got to El Paso were all met. Now, she has new goals she has set for herself going into law school.

“In law school I want to maintain a high GPA, get better at learning about the law and what it takes to be an attorney,” Turner said. “After law school, I want to practice law and become one of the top defense attorneys in the United States.”

Turner also wants to one day own a law firm and in the future become a judge. She is aspiring to go into criminal law after Notre Dame.

“The ultimate reason for what I’m doing is to take my family and the situation they’re in and give back to them,” Turner said. “I want kids from back home to understand they can do what I’m doing. I want to be an inspiration to the people back home and make my mom proud.”

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IN BRIEF

FRESHMAN BREAKS 33-YEAR OLD TRACK RECORD
In her race on Saturday, April 30, freshman standout Tobi Amusan clocked the fourth fastest 100-meter hurdle time in the world in 2016 and broke the program’s record at Kidd Field with a time of 12.83. The sub-13 second run is the second fastest time ever run by an athlete under the age of 20.

THREE MINERS SIGN NFL CONTRACTS
Former Miners football players Roy Robertson-Harris, Cedrick Lang and Kelvin Fisher Jr. all signed to respective NFL franchises to continue their careers in football. Robertson-Harris was picked up by the Chicago Bears, Lang signed a contract with the New York Giants and Fisher Jr. was acquired by the Pittsburgh Steelers. Robertson-Harris was a three-year starter for the Miners and finished the 2015 season with 51 stops (27 sacks/24 assists). Fisher Jr. filled a strong role in the defensive back position totaling 33 tackles in 2015. Lang, who was a converted football player from basketball, played in all 12 games and caught 11 passes for 72 yards.

BASKETBALL INKS TWO AND LOSES TWO
Forward Josh McSwiggan and center Bradrick Jones announced last week they will leave the Miners’ basketball program. This marks four departures from the team during this off-season with Lee Moore and Christian Romine also announcing they would be leaving. Jones played in 16 games off the bench, while McSwiggan had to sit out for the 2015-16 season due to eligibility issues. During the off-season, the Miners acquired a 7-foot-1 giant in Roman Silva and a guard with Chris Barnes. The addition of Silva will mark three seniors on the team—Kelvin Jones, who was a redshirt freshman, and Matt Wilmits, who was injured all last season.

CHIHUAHUAS RETURN HOME AFTER SERIES SPLICE
After splitting the series with Fresno over the weekend, the El Paso Chihuahuas (10-12) will return home to Southwest University Park to face Las Vegas. They will play a four game series against Las Vegas beginning on May 2. They will be at home all week up until Sunday, May 8. Against Las Vegas, the Chihuahuas will be battling against pitcher Gabriel Ynoa (1-0, 1.48).
Seniors say farewell in track and field and softball
6. Kamelekalani Netauno adored with flowers as he kisses her family. 7. Pitcher Taylor Grollmann hugs Netauno for her last game at Helen of Troy Softball Complex.

8. Lindsey Sakaluk joyfully hugs outfielder Jade Robichaux. 9. Seniors pose with family members and their commemorative jerseys before their matchup against North Texas.

Living on campus means community, safety, convenience, and academic success! Come by for a tour!

“Miner Village is so convenient to me because it is so close to school and I can sleep in a little longer, which means I get a better rest and that leads to better success in academics.”

- Kristine Anete
Senior
Organizational Communications and Public Relations with minor in Business

“Living on campus allowed me to have an easy access to all UTEP facilities and made it easier for me to organize my time.”

- Agata Dobrowska
Senior
Criminal Justice

“Living on campus allows you to get more involved with student organizations and participate in activities on campus. Zero commute time means that you can always take a nap in between classes! The residence life environment provides opportunities to meet lots of people with diverse backgrounds, it is a great way to improve academically and as an individual in general. Living on campus has been one of the best experiences I have had!”

- Elliot Gurrola
PhD Candidate
Electrical and Computer Engineering

The UTEP Department of Residence Life - 2401 North Oregon
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Softball clinches a spot in the C-USA Tournament

The Miner's softball team made history on Sunday, May 1, by clinching their spot in the C-USA Tournament and winning their 13th conference game of the season at home. This year's Miners have seen the most wins in school history as they went up against the North Texas Mean Green.

The 6-3 win over North Texas has more significance than simply setting up a new school record. With this win, the Miners (22-28, 13-8 C-USA) are tied for first place in the West Division of C-USA with UAB (23-28, 13-8 C-USA). This is the first time since 2010 that the Miners have made the conference's post-season tournament.

"We are tied for first and it's a good spot for us," head coach Tobin Echo-Hawk said. "We just have to make sure we take care of business next weekend (at Southern Miss). It's nice going into that last weekend with a little relaxed instead of having to do so much. It's a different feeling that we've never been through, so I think the kids are ready to enjoy it and when they're loose and relaxed, they play better.

Although they took care of business at the end, the Miners were at a 1-0 disadvantage early in the first inning. Rhylee Makave of North Texas slugged an RBI down center field to send Makave (Dawson home for the first score of the game. Early on, sophomore Courtney Clayton placed herself in the Miners' history books, setting a new school record for most hits in a season (74). UTEP would prevail with the bases loaded as Danielle Pearson knocked the ball out toward left field for an RBI, and that gave Clayton the run to tie up the game, just after making her record-setting accomplishment.

"This weekend had so many emotions, with senior weekend and going to conference tournament," Clayton said regarding her record-setting hitting. "I feel blessed to play for a school like UTEP. I'm thankful my name is in the record, but I'm excited for these next games and next two weeks with the seniors." At the bottom of the second inning, after Clayton doubled, Kiki Pep hit an RBI to send Clayton to bar second touch at home plate and tie the 2-1 lead for the Mean Green.

North Texas didn't go away easily and made back-to-back to scores in the third inning by Dawson and Makave to slide in a 3-2 lead for the Mean Green.

The Miners from this point on would fly away with this game. An RBI by catcher Linda Garcia led to Pearson evening the game at three points. At the bottom of the fifth inning, Garcia put a stamp on the game after Smith singled to first and Garcia slammed one out of the ball park to left field for a home run and a 5-3 advantage. The killer instinct of the Miners offense kept this game rolling as junior Taylor Sargent punched in the ball for another home run for the Miners.

"We had to do what we had to do to get the runs; it's a great feeling to win in a team," said Garcia, who tallied three RBIs for the team. "I had a rough week hitting in practice, but I just went into this weekend to relax, treat the process and the results came for me. I just have to continue to work harder every day and push until we get what we want."

The game served as a special reflection for the seniors, who would put on their jerseys for the last time.

"Our season had big moments," Echo-Hawk said. "Pearson had clutch hits; Jade had clutch hits— it's nice to see the seniors go out on a win. These kids keep fighting and really push through and we're tied for first—we have to make sure to take care of business in the next game.

The emotion was heightened for the seniors Sunday, with Jade Rodriguez, Morgan Rasmussen, Danielle Pearson and Neteke Kavubuka taking part in their final home game at the Helen of Troy softball field.

"My career here was amazing—from where we first started and to where we are now has been an amazing journey," Pearson said. "It hasn't hit me that it's almost over. I'm more excited that we're making it to the tournament and tied for first. Being a part of this team that we've built in four years, all the bonds and relationships is what I'm going to miss the most."

The last games for the Miners will be at Southern Miss starting Saturday, May 7. They are competing for a top seed in the West Division.

"Congratulations to our 2016 seniors," Echo-Hawk said. "We are so proud of you全部内容。