When Mohammed Iddrisu, a graduate student in English rhetoric and writing, got on a plane to the United States for the first time, an overwhelming sense of apprehension overcame him. He is an African native, born and raised in Ghana, and the fifth of his seven siblings. He’s also a Muslim, who earned his bachelor’s degree of English in Ghana, and served as a teacher in Saudi Arabia for two years. But he wanted to further his education, thus calling for his new destination, which was America, and more specifically UTEP.

He kept hearing chatter from the U.S. that attacked his race and ethnicity and it frightened him. However, when he stepped foot in El Paso and got his bearings with the city and university, the cultural inclusivity of the region quickly eased his anxiety.

“Coming to the U.S., one as an African and two as a Muslim, in this political climate and what we saw during the campaign, it was horrible,” he said. “But coming here, the way people receive you—no one sees you as an immigrant, African or Muslim—people just see you as a human being. People want to know more about your culture and want to tell you about their culture.”

Iddrisu joined the African Students Organization (ASO) at UTEP to further promote his culture and learn about others’ different cultures. On Monday, Nov. 13, his organization participated in the 2017 International Food Fair, as part of the university’s International Culture Festival week. It became more than just a food contest as 16 different organizations from UTEP joined together to not only celebrate their respective cultures through food, but each club joined to commend the different ethnicities, races and cultures through inclusion and information at their respective booths.

Aside from the club’s traditional dishes of African jollof rice and kelewele (fried plantains) entreé, there’s a deeper celebration that they wanted to showcase.

“How makes me proud, first as a Ghanaian and second as an African, is our rich culture,” he said. “Our culture is one that promotes communal living. When we came here, we decided to not create a Ghanaian students (organization), but rather an African students organization so we can create a communal sense of living. This sense of family, this sense of communal living is the thing that’s most key. We have people from Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Cocos and others from Ghana. So this sense of communal brings us together. We feel we bring all that together.”

Along with the ASO booth, the Bangladesh Student Association, Le Club Français, Bhutanese Students’ Association, Black Student Union, Brazilian Culture Center and Nepalese Student Association made cultural-specific dishes and promoted first-hand knowledge of their backgrounds.

Just three feet away from the ASO booth was the Bangladeshi Student Association’s table, decorated with political leaders, artwork and information about Bangladesh. After winning the food fair contest on Monday, they are back-to-back champions. The specific dish they’re known for is a thare combo dish that includes chicken curry, pulao rice, semi and mango lachki.

Kazi Md Masum Billah, a member of the Bangladeshi Student Association and a doctoral student in mechanical engineering, said that their mission for the university’s international week goes beyond just a plate of food. According to UTEP’s breakdown of international students, there are 55 students enrolled from Bangladesh.

“It’s not all about the food, it’s about the culture. You can see a lot of great people behind this and we are mostly graduate students doing master’s or doctor’s programs,” Billah said. “I would say more than 90 percent of people from Bangladesh are Muslim and the other...”
You'll get through, even if you're not a U.S. citizen

BY GREGA SANCHEZ

The Prospector

The life of an international student isn't easy. Since my first semester, I've had to deal with a lot of pressure by my family, my friends and my high school teachers to succeed in this “great opportunity to study with the best,” as they would say.

My mother does not know English and my father isn't always available due to work. There is no one in my family who has studied outside Mexico. So, as a bilingual high schooler, with only one ar- medriver of driving, I was immedi- ately put in charge of my admissi- on process at UTEP. I used to see El Paso as this unclimbable wall waiting for me. Thinking back, I realize now I had to overcome the language barrier, I should make things thoroughly, ex- plying about a student intu- dient and that I had different paper- work than the average student.

The problem, I realize now I could've saved so much trouble by just asking being afraid to speak in English, even though I al- ready knew the language, has been one of the most difficult challenges I have to overcome.

Still, it has been great to learn from my mistakes and look for- ward. Now, I am not afraid of studying somewhere else because of language. I do not think I am less of a person for not knowing certain vocabulary, and most im- portantly, I have learned how to embrace changes in my life. The life of an international student isn't easy, but it is not as impossible as one may think at the beginning.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

This week's poll question: If tuition increases, where would you like to see your money go?

answer at theprospectordaily.com

Submit a letter to the editor!

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. Address and phone number will be used for verification only.

Write to 105 E. Union, e-mail theprospectordailynews@gmail.com, call 747-7464 or fax to 747-0831.

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Students at UTEP may be paying higher tuition and fees in the next two years, according to a tuition forum held Nov. 7.

The proposal for tuition and fees increase was unveiled during a presentation at an open forum for UTEP students, faculty and staff last week by the Division of Student Affairs.

If approved, tuition and fees increases would impact all students enrolled during those semesters.

Vice President of Student Affairs Gary Edens, undergraduate students taking 15 hours per semester are currently paying $3,965. Students taking 15 hours per semester at UT Dallas currently pay $4,672 in 2019-20.

According to information provided by Vice President of Student Affairs Gary Edens, undergraduate students taking 15 hours per semester are currently paying $3,965. Students taking 15 hours per semester at UT Dallas currently pay $4,672 in 2019-20.

The current plan would implement a differential tuition plan, meaning that a student in the College of Education would be paying less per semester than a student in the College of Engineering.

The College of Health Sciences would see costs rise 8 percent, resulting in tuition and fees for the 2018-19 academic year at UTEP students pay $4,313 in 2018-19 and $4,732 in 2019-20.

Students in the colleges of engineering and business would see the highest increase at 11 percent. Students enrolled in the College of Engineering would pay $4,403 in 2018-19 and $4,852 in 2019-20, while business students would pay $4,441 and $4,871 in those respective years.

The College of Health Sciences would see costs rise 8 percent, resulting in tuition reaching $4,313 in 2018-19 and $4,732 in 2019-20.

Edens said that this is a reflection of the costs associated with operations of the colleges and institution. Also included in these costs is a 15 percent increase in the student service fees. Students service fees fund student services at the university, such as the University Career Center, UTEP Counseling Center and the Center for Accommodation and Support Services.

Brittany Cardenas, a senior communication major, has concerns about the increase.

“Can't say I'm happy about the increase because now tuition is going to be about $4,000 per semester, which is starting to become unaffordable,” she said. “I do understand that there's not a whole lot UTEP can do about it. I know UTEP needs to find ways to keep professors here with all the students who are coming in, as I just wish it would be a bit lower than 6 percent.”

Students concerned about paying for the increase should know that the tuition increase would also mean an increase in financial aid. According to Edens, 15 percent of tuition and fees must be set aside for institutional aid. Also coming back in the summer is Pell Grant, which students can apply for beginning this summer.

Edens said the proposal is in its early stages and the final draft will be voted on by the student majority committee and sent to Dr. Natalicio so she can make her final changes before submitting it to the UT System Board of Regents, who will have the final vote in February.

Edens and the committee want to hear feedback from the UTEP community on the current draft and welcome all comments and suggestions.

Final proposals are due to the UT System Office of Academic Affairs on Dec. 4. Find out more about the increase at UTEP’s tuition and fees website, https://www.utep.edu/tuition/.
INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL FESTIVAL

UTEP will celebrate its third annual International Education Week featuring a weeklong International Cultural Festival. On Wednesday and Friday the festival will host a Bazaar and Entertainment from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Union Cinema in the Union East. There will be a lecture every day from different speakers at 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Blumberg Auditorium. For a list of events visit www.sa.utep.edu/ICF.

DIVERSITY from page 1

10 percent are Hindu, Buddhist and others.”

Back home, Billah speaks Bengali and now speaks fluent English. He decided to come to UTEP because of its engineering program.

“The biggest difference is the humidity and the snowfall,” he said. “The weather is really cool in El Paso, we all really like it.”

Similar to Iddrisu, Billah appreciates the ethnic diversity approach UTEP offers.

“We heard that El Paso is the immigrant-friendly city. Being here we can see the other international students are really nice, and also the people from El Paso have been really nice,” he said.

Unlike the others, Sonam Lhamo, the president of the Bhutanese Students’ Association and a senior physics major, did not directly choose to come to UTEP to study. Instead, her scholarship placed her at the university and she has enjoyed her time thus far.

“It feels really homey because I saw how UTEP set everything up based off the Bhutanese culture and they did a really good job on the architecture,” said Lhamo, who is one of 30 Bhutanese students at UTEP. “Not many people know that about the architecture. Our mission and our vision is to let people know about the Bhutanese culture and to spread the love.”

The only thing is that while all of these different organizations agree that the region promotes cultural diversity, on a national scale, the country sometimes reflects otherwise.

There are more than a million international students that attend American colleges and universities, and more than 160,000 of them are from India, second only to China with more than 300,000, according to the New York Times.

Recently, Inside Higher Ed did a survey among international students in America and found that there has been a downward trend in enrollments through universities. The survey also indicated that half of the universities saw a 45 percent drop with international enrollment.

“In my opinion, America really resists change,” Lhamo said. “I don’t think learning new cultures will help get rid of the old ones. It helps you meet new people, be diverse. Now, what is America? It’s a fusion of different cultures. Even back home we try to resist change and limit the cultures learned. But I think we should take the good part of each culture that we encounter.”

Carlos De Lara, a member of the Brazilian Culture Center and a junior history major, was born and raised in El Paso but decided to join the organization after taking a Portuguese class and also volunteered to help them at the food fair.

“We have a bunch of different people from all around the world here. El Paso is extremely accepting. I happen to work as an Uber (driver) sometimes and people across the country—across the world—they feel neglected and they come here and they feel a little more heartwarming,” he said. “Me, as a native of El Paso, makes me proud to be here.”

These organizations and others will continue the celebration of the International Culture Festival throughout this week, with events ranging from a bazaar and entertainment to a lecture and film series.

For more information on locations, times and the full event schedule, visit sa.utep.edu/ICF.

“Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter: @adrian_broaddus”

The Bangladeshi Student Association placed first in the food fair and won fan favorite as well.
The best international restaurants to visit in El Paso

BY JASON GREEN

One of the best things about living in a city the size of El Paso is the plethora of food options. Of course, we all know that El Paso claims to be the “Mexican food capital of the world,” which has always made me wonder why any place in Mexico wouldn’t claim that title, but I digress. If you tire of the usual, El Paso offers ways to travel the world—ultimately speaking—without leaving the city limits.

In the same family tree as Mexican food, which may help the less intrepid explorers, is the Puerto Rican food served up at El Koqui de la Dyer. The small, family-run restaurant has only been open for about six months, but has already earned a reputation among the Puerto Rican community in El Paso for serving up authentic home-cooked favorites. Malafon (mashed green plantains with garlic and spices, fried and formed into a ball with chicharros inside) and churrasco (grilled steak with a side of sweet corn gandules (rice with pigeon peas and chunks of pork) fly out the door to feed the many soldiers at Fort Bliss and Puerto Rican community, leaving just enough room to sit and enjoy the atmosphere of the cozy “mom and pop” spot.

The Fort Bliss community has also brought other great international eating spots for those willing to make the drive to the Northeast side of town. For those willing to venture away from typical Chinese food, Korean restaurants are plentiful on Northeast El Paso as well as with many soldiers having married Koreans during their time in the service.

One of the best of these restaurants is Han II Ko-kon, also on Dyer Street. The lunch specials are incredibly cheap and the extras make the meal extremely filling. For $6.99 you can try any number of traditional Korean favorites such as bulgogi (marinated grilled beef) and kochi (marinated grilled spare ribs).

The hospitality is unlike any other restaurant you may find in El Paso. As soon as you order, you are brought a taste of sweet and savory green plantain cake with a soy/onion dipping sauce and an empty plate. One of the best things about Korean restaurants, is their banchan (small side dishes). Even those not too familiar with Korean food may have heard of kimchi, a spicy, sometimes fermented or “rotten” cabbage. In the case of Han II Gwan-Kon, it is not rotten, it is just seasoned and spicy. The plate is to help yourself to the small buffet of small dishes full of spicy broccoli, cabbage, hot dogs, seaweed, sweet potatoes and numerous others.

One last Army-related restaurant in the Northeast is the Little Bavarian German Restaurant on Hondo Pass. The restaurant is thorough in their German decor, food and beer, and regularly serves the German military personnel stationed at Fort Bliss. Any of the bratwurst, currywurst or schnitzel is authentic and very tasty with a side of sauerkraut and potatoes, but the real value at Little Bavarian is every month or so when the restaurant finds a reason to serve their all-you-can-eat buffet of sausage and a grilled burger with olive oil, garlic and cilantro with potatoes—the true star of the buffet.

Just a few doors down from the new Jerusalem Grill is another lunch buffet that has been open a little longer, India Palace. Unlike Jerusalem Grills buffet, India Palace’s choices change very little from day to day, but with the quality of food that is served—why mess with perfection?

Traditional Indian favorites such as tandoori chicken (chicken marinated in yogurt and spices) and pakora (fried vegetable balls) are served every day in the classy, modern restaurant. Do not leave without one—or 15—lamb jaamun, which are small balls of dried milk, fried and soaking in sugar syrup. Save room for these!

On a recent visit, the restaurant served many Mediterranean dishes that were both filling and still light and refreshing. A salad of spinach and romaine had a balsamic and basil dressing, but the key was the toasted pine nuts. Dishes on the buffet included an outstanding red vegetable and shrimp curry—like dish, a pasta and chicken dish in white sauce, which was full of flavor, and a grilled burger with olive oil, garlic and cilantro with potatoes—the true star of the buffet.

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The Swell Kids set the record straight on ‘GOOD PROBLEMS: A Collection of Feelings’

BY ADRIAN BROADUS

The Prospector

November 14, 2017

The Swell Kids set the record straight on ‘GOOD PROBLEMS: A Collection of Feelings’

The Prospector

By Adri

Kids. It stemmed from many oppor-

The importance of an intro song for an album. How does “Pressure” set the tone for the album?

E: The importance for the intro song is to grab the listener. To me, “Press-

Q: First off, you all designed three sepa-

E: Good problems is a saying or a

Q: “Control” feels consistent through-

E: “Rowland Heights” was one of

Michaela Román/The Prospector

Q: “GOOD PROBLEMS: A Collection of Feelings” is the title of the album, but how can anyone truly have good problems? Why is the title name for the album?

E: Life After” is actually a very sad

Q: Joining with Irie Lee on “Friends”

E: We made this track and it was just

E: “Rowland Heights” features a lot

E: When we do our DJ sets and our

Q: “Control” feels consistent through-

Q: “Life After” was a standout on the album. How is he working with the person he is, it’s meant to move you. The interlude

E: “Life After” was a standout on the album. How is he working with the person he is, it’s meant to move you. The interlude

Q: “Pressure” kicks off the album and did a commentary interview on that LP. Below are Eddie (E) and Alex (A) responses.

Q: What’s this song about? What was the inspiration behind this album?

Q: “How do you wanna be?” and this could be me teach-

E: Well, first that interlude in the be-

Q: “Rowland Heights” features a lot

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Men’s basketball set for Puerto Rico Tip-Off tournament

The Miners will play three games in four days at the Puerto Rico Tip-Off.

The Miners play three games in four days at the Puerto Rico Tip-Off tournament against their old Western Athletic Conference rival Boise State on Thursday, Nov. 16, at noon at the HTC Center in Conway, SC. The game will be televised on ESPNU.

The tournament was relocated to Puerto Rico because of Hurricane Maria in the region in late September.

The Miners are coming off a season-opening win just like the Miners did, earning a 104-65 win against Eastern Oregon on the same night (Nov. 10).

Meanwhile, the Broncos scored more than 100 points in their season-opening win just like the Miners did, earning a 104-65 win against Eastern Oregon on the same night (Nov. 10). Sophomore guard Alex Hobbs led Boise State in scoring (21) with a perfect nine-for-nine shooting from the floor.

UTEP and Boise State have met 11 times in their history, with UTEP owning the series lead, 6-5. However, the two teams haven’t matched up since the 2005 WAC Championship game, which resulted in a 91-78 win for the Miners.

The winner of the Miners (1-0) versus the Broncos (2-0) game will play the winner of last year’s Final Four, South Carolina, or Illinois region in late September.

Needless to say, Boise State will pose an early season test for a UTEP team with more newcomers than returners and the same amount of freshmen as they do returners.

UTEP’s roster is comprised of eight newcomers—five freshmen—and only five returners from last year’s fourth-seeded Conference USA team that went 15-17 overall but an impressive 12-6 in Conference USA play.

Nonetheless, out of the five returners for UTEP, four of them were starters on last year’s team, including their leading scorer from last year, guard Omega Harris, who is now a senior, and their two bigs down low in senior center Matt Willms and Thomas.

Boise State is coming off a third-place finish last year in the Mountain West Conference after going 12-12 (12-6 in conference).

Boise State has the Mountain West Preseason Player of the Year and leading scorer (17.4 points per game) and has helped lead an offense that averaged 75.1 points per game, and who will be a senior leader for the Broncos this season.

Boise State is coming off a third-place finish last year in the Mountain West Conference after going 12-12 (12-6 in conference).

Johnson was a first-team All-Conference player last season and leading scorer (17.4 points per game) and has helped lead an offense that averaged 75.1 points per game, and who will be a senior leader for the Broncos this season.

Just like UTEP, who added a gifted graduate transfer in Frazier, the Broncos added two experienced graduate transfers of their own and now have three seniors alongside Hutchinson.

One of their additions comes from Fordham University in Christian Sengfelder—a 6-foot-9, 246-pound player who brings 93 games of experience.

The other grad transfer the Broncos added this offseason is Lexus Williams, who makes for a reliable starter.

Both Sengfelder and Williams being added to the Broncos roster, with a talent like Hutchinson, make Boise State’s inexperience more lethal and raise the potential for a big three.

Also, both teams are trying to fill the shoes of key players departing last year. UTEP is still searching for the point guard position since losing Dominic Artis—UTEP’s leader in both assists (5.8 assists per game) and rebounding (6.5 points per game) last season—while Boise State lost Paris Austin to California. Austin averaged 12.3 points per game and a team-leading 2.8 assists per game.

In the preseason polls, both UTEP and Boise State were projected to finish in the top half of their respected conferences, with Boise State picked to finish third again in the MWC and UTEP picked to finish fifth in C-USA.

UTEP is guaranteed to play three games in the Puerto Rico Tip-Off from Nov. 16 to Nov. 19. The other teams participating in the tournament that the Miners could match-up with in the third game include Iowa State, Appalachian State, Tulsa and Western Michigan.

Follow Mike Flores on Twitter @MikeFloyd83.
British-born golfer finds success in El Paso

BY MIKE FLORES

After a strong fall start to the 2017-18 season, Lily Downs is using the winter break part of the schedule to perfect her already talented set of skills.

As a sophomore, Lily Downs led the UTEP golf team in scoring average (75.1), was the Miners’ top finisher in four of its 10 tournaments, had five top-10 finishes and was named UTEP team MVP.

“After my freshman year, I told coach I’m going to be your MVP next season. I’m going to work hard and get it,” Downs said. “After I won team MVP my sophomore season, I told myself that absolutely have to get it and for the next three years, too.”

As a junior now, the United Kingdom student-athlete seems to be putting actions behind her words and wishes. With a lot to live up to after a breakthrough sophomore campaign, Downs seems to be better than she ever was now.

Only five tournaments into Downs’ junior season and she’s already accomplished what some players won’t do throughout a whole season. Out of the five team tournaments, Downs has been UTEP’s top finisher in three of them, she’s finished top 10 in top three matches, has four top-20 showings and has the Miners’ best finish this season—coming in second overall in the FAU Fall Invitational with her performance of a nine-under-par 135—only two strokes away from topping tournament winner Worapitcha Apunyada (Seminole State).

All of Downs’ success in a short amount of time hasn’t gone unnoticed. In fact, in Downs’ illustrious career, she was named the Conference USA Female Golfer of the Week on Oct. 18, after picking up a pair of top-five finishes at the NMSU Aggie Invitational and at the FAU Fall Invitational the week prior.

But playing at a high level with high success isn’t new to Downs. Just where exactly did UTEP find a talent like Downs?

Well, Downs first picked up a golf club when she was 10 years old, when her father, Michael Downs, took her out to a driving range. At the time, Downs had no idea that golf would play such a crucial role in the life she lives.

From that time on that driving range, I just couldn’t get enough of it, said Downs.

Prior to UTEP, Downs was a member of the Romanby Golf Club, where she was the junior captain, which included not only much-needed experience for such a young star, but also multiple wins with her club.

Being a winner is something that came early for Downs. She was the ladies’ Gross champion four times and the junior Gross champion in 2015. Downs owns the course record at Romanby.

With her impressive resume, Downs’ possibility of playing at the next level in college was real. So more than 5,000 miles away in the city of Kirklevington, Yarm, UK, UTEP found what they were looking for—a golf standout in Downs.

When Downs first arrived in El Paso, she knew UTEP was the next best thing for her young career.

“When I came on my official visit, everything that coach showed me about UTEP was screaming ‘yes’ to me. The weather was perfect, so I knew that I could play year-round here, which I’ve never had the opportunity to do back home,” Downs said. “I knew UTEP could be a great opportunity for me, so I took it—I had to.”

Nonetheless, with all the changes that come with moving to another country, with no family or friends to lean on, it took some time for Downs to get used to the American lifestyle. Downs had no idea what to expect when it was finally time to leave the UK and come live in Sun City.

“When I got here (El Paso), I was lost. I didn’t know what to do. It hit me hard on how different home and here was at first,” Downs said.

“Coach (Scott Lieberwirth) really helped me transitioning over here. Every problem I had I would ring him. I was like that freshman with every little question.”

Over her two and a half years of living in El Paso, the city has really grown on her. In fact, Downs finds herself missing El Paso and wanting to come back when she goes back to the UK for holidays and breaks.

“Over this past summer, I actually told my mom that I couldn’t wait to get back to El Paso. I couldn’t believe that actually came out when I was back home, but I definitely do see it as my second home,” Downs said.

An advantage that El Paso brought to Downs and her game was the change in weather compared to the Romanby fields. While El Paso brings a more seasonable weather of warmth and much sunlight, Romanby’s weather made it difficult to play outside with colder and wetter weather.

“Usually my season would start in April and we would finish in October at home because those were the only months that the courses would be in decent conditions,” Downs said. “So, what I love about here is that you could go outside whenever. I love having that option. I could wake up in the middle of November and go play if I wanted to.”

On the field, Downs is all about improving every week both individually and helping her team as a whole get to the top.

“I’ve done all these tournaments before, so when the younger girls come to me, I give them all my notes on the courses. When the tournaments come around and the freshmen need help with anything, I’m always there to help,” Downs said.

From her freshman year to now, Downs’ biggest area of growth has been her consistency throughout an entire season. And even with all she’s accomplished so far, Downs still sees a lot of room for improvement.

With the spring slate of the season starting back up on Feb. 12 at Texas State, Downs’ goals for the remainder of her season is to finish at least one of the tournaments under par, knowing that the spring courses are a lot more challenging. Her biggest goal though is for UTEP to win a tournament as a team and to win the conference championship.