SAYING GOODBYE
THE GRADUATION ISSUE

MOTHER LOOKS BACK AT JOURNEY
GOING TO SCHOOL WITH HER KIDS
A11

SENIORS REVEAL WHAT THEY
WILL AND WON'T MISS
A13

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS PREPARE
FOR FINAL SHOW
B1

UTEP GOLFER READY TO TAKE
NEXT STEPS IN HIS CAREER
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I’ll miss it and I’d say it’s over!

BY RENE DELGADILLO

The Prospector

There was a moment in my life where I was about to drop out of college because I felt it was not going to be worth it. I was getting tired of being enrolled in classes that were not helping me learn a damn thing about my career.

I applied for The Prospector three times and my applications went without a response for months. I started to get disappointed and lose hope.

Each day was the same. I would go to class and I would go back home. I was not involved and I never knew what was going on around campus. I was ready to drop out and start working with my dad as a construction painter.

It wasn’t until Amanda Guillen, the then-in-chief at the time, called to interview me for a position as a news contributor. I immediately started to freak out because I didn’t have a resume or any nice shirts or slacks. I called my girlfriend, who was studying abroad in Germany, to ask her for advice and she told me to not be an idiot and that I should go to the interview.

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But then, at some point, during my home on an empty 2-10 2 the next morning where there’s donuts at the office, I hate you. Every single day was worth it.

During my time here, I interviewed many El Paso figures, from Beto O’Rourke to President Donald Trump, and almost every sport in the city; photographed Elle John, a Texas shooter, in the world, and El Pasoans and people who were visiting for the first time, hired staffers, hired staffers, played matchmaker, fell in love, was heartbroken, got over it, and would get so stressed I would cry, would laugh so hard I would cry, make friendships that will last the rest of my life, traveled to Austin, New York, and D.C. to accept awards, was rejected by countless internships, was accepted to some internships and even hired in the Pacific Northwest for a summer, where I had my work picked up by the Associated Press and got into a Kendrick Lamar concert as a reviewer.

But most importantly because of this job, I learned who I am.

I learned that it is possible to throw a bunch of personality types, who would have never found each other, into a room together and work hard to brainstorm, communicate, mess up, try again, submit stories, send them to the printers, and then do it all over again. I loved being photo editor for three years. Being able to mentor photographers and teach them while also learning myself was the best. The thing is, I was too comfortable. I was too happy in a sense. When asked to be editor-in-chief, how could I say no? My ELAs were a photo editor—Jasmine Aguilar, Lauren Wattles, Amanda Guillen and Luis Gonzalez—each knew how we thought. I didn’t think I had.

But I learned that you set your mind to something and learn from observation and practice, you can accomplish it.

Going to college in El Paso, I was able to benefit from art as a photographer and journalist. I would have to see a small college town as a freelance photographer, I was able to shoot everything, from weddings, to working for real estate businesses and everything in between.

As a journalist, I won awards for covering events of the US/Mexico border and preserving Mexican-American culture, which I would never have experienced had I not stayed home.

There are two things I have constantly been told these last five years. The first was being asked if I get paid for the pictures I take and working at the Prospector. Yes, the answer is always yes. I understand my value as a photographer and it’s very rare I would ever do anything for free.

The second was more of a statement than a question, “you’re so lucky.” Although to some extent that may have been true and I know intentions are pure when those words are said, the fact is it was much harder work than luck.

I will never sacrifice long sleep, time, sometimes nights up for class and finally my health for this job because I know it would pay off in the long run and be able to cover what I did, meet the people I did and have access to the places I did just some of the perks.

I’m so grateful I was able to start working here only a few semesters after starting my college career. Although, I am not the same person I was in the fall of 2015. I was lost, as most freshmen are. I was majoring in advertising, which I find hilarious now since I’ve developed a crazy passion for journalism ethics and staying away from manipulation and biases as much as possible. Sorry Vern!

I ended up changing my major to digital media production, where I worked with some very talented El Paso students to produce videos. My favorite memories about being a DMP student were when Ramon Villas took a group of us to work on a documentary in Peru as part of study abroad and when Sabina Khan had us work on documentaries of our choice and chose me as a director. Those were some great experiences that really reminded me if I ever have the opportunity to work on documentaries, I will.

At the start of 2017, after I had been EIC for a year and was on track to graduate four years, I realized it wasn’t ready. Even though I already had experience and knew I wanted to work in a newsroom, I still wanted more time. I ended up double majoring in multimedia journalism and it was the best thing I ever did.

Just in last year, I saw so much happen that was good for the journalism department, especially the resurrection of the NAHJ (National Association of Hispanic Journalists) UTEP chapter. Dino Chiecchi, thank you for helping get a group of us together to do so.

As one of the highest Hispanic-populated campuses in the country, having a group that fights for the inclusion of Hispanics in newsrooms is so important and I’m glad we were able to bring in Pulitzer Prize-winning speakers to inspire students. see COLLEGE on page A3

The best college job I could have asked for

BY MICHAELA ROMÁN

The Prospector

It wasn’t until Amanda Guillen, the then-in-chief at the time, called to interview me for a position as a news contributor. I immediately started to freak out because I didn’t have a resume or any nice shirts or slacks. I called my girlfriend, who was studying abroad in Germany, to ask her for advice and she told me to not be an idiot and that I should go to the interview.

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The Spring 2018 Prospector staff wishes you good luck on finals!
COLLEGE from page a2

I am excited to see where the organization is going.

Here at The Prospector, I took a semester break to focus on six international classes and work full-time. I will return in the fall semester as EIC. I thought I had it all figured out until I started my job search, which showed me the value of hard work and determination.

I also want to thank everyone who has supported me throughout my time here. I am grateful to work with the best people in the world.

COLLEGE from page a1

My girlfriend Maria knows more than anyone how my mental health affected my life and our relationship. I want to thank you for supporting me through this journey. I’m thankful for having you in my life and for encouraging me to join this publication and for always being there for me. You could become a better journalist. Thanks for all your love and support. I love you!

Kathy, thanks for being the best and toughest adviser. Thanks for all your advice and for supporting me through my mental health breakdown.

Christian, my oldest friend, thanks for being who you are. You’re my best friend. Thank you for always being there for me.

And I’m thankful to all the amazing people who made this experience an incredible journey. You are some of the most interesting and talented people I know and the memories we made together will last forever. The Prospector were some of the craziest times I’ve ever experienced.

There are many others that played a huge role in my time in this newsroom. From searching for the “homeless student” in the Union, to some of the most interesting and talented people I know and the memories we made together will last forever. The Prospector were some of the craziest times I’ve ever experienced.

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My best decision in college

BY MIKE FLORES
The Prospector

When I first became a college student, I had no idea what was in store for me. I didn’t even know what I wanted to major in. All my friends were really passionate about what field they decided to go into and I never thought I would feel that way about any field.

I ended up majoring in business to start off my college career because it seemed like a safe bet at the time and my dad had majored in that back in his day.

After I started finishing up my basics and began getting into the core classes of business, I hit a bump in the road. I hated every day of school because every business class was my worst nightmare and I was lost in every way. I was practically a third-year freshman. I had taken this one math class three times and I hadn’t made any progress in the right steps to become successful.

That’s when I knew I had to make a change fast because if I was this miserable in the beginning stages of business, I could only imagine how much worse it would be later down the road when searching for my career.

I had to look at myself in the mirror and search deep down inside of me for what I really wanted to pursue and become in life.

After weeks of debating whether to switch my major two-and-a-half years into college, I decided to pursue a journalism career. I’ve always loved writing, finding stories in everything, and I could actually see myself being happy in journalism. That was big because I thought if I was truly happy doing what I love, then I would do anything to succeed and keep pushing myself toward my goals. I wanted to be good at something important so bad, so I bet on myself in the demanding field of journalism.

A couple of months into a new major, I wanted to test my skills out, not only in the classroom but in work that revolved around writing and putting stories together. Although I was beyond nervous because I had never worked at anything having to do with journalism, I applied at The Prospector after my now good friend Adrian Broaddus encouraged me to.

I had never been so ecstatic as soon as I found out The Prospector was taking a chance on me after a month of showing what I could do as a contributor. All I knew is that I wasn’t going to let anyone down from The Prospector because I wanted to be there so badly.

Working at The Prospector, I learned how to better my writing on the daily website. I also branched out from my comfort zone as I got the opportunity to work as a reporter for The Prospector for two years. I learned how to interview people, cover events, take photos, edit papers and experience what it’s like to work in an actual publication for the very first time. I made connections with people in my field that I will carry forever, and I gained more confidence in my abilities to become the best journalist I can be just from working at The Prospector.

I still remember the first time I saw my name published on The Prospector’s newspaper. It was the best feeling in the world. Little did I know that I would be doing my dream job as a college student, covering UTEP sports and other events I never thought I would get the chance to be at, like covering the Final Four.

Best of all, I’ve never had so much fun and loving what I do than I have working for The Prospector. I could never thank the staff enough for bringing me in and showing me everything there is to know about being a good journalist. I’ll always be in debt to The Prospector because when everything in my road seemed like it was going downhill, The Prospector lifted me up and made me believe in my future and most importantly myself.

The Prospector gave me the best start to my journalism career and I could never be more thankful. There will always be a special place in my heart for all the lifelong friends and relationships I’ve built because of The Prospector.

You’ll be missed so much, Prospector staff.

Mike Flores may not be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com
An educator, a mentor: Mary Trejo retires after 52 years at UTEP

By Christian Vasquez

In 1966, Mary Trejo sent out 100 letters looking for any open teaching positions across the country. She was 22 and just received a master’s in English from the University of Missouri. Growing up on a farm in the Ozark Mountains of Southern Missouri, she wanted to travel somewhere exciting and exotic.

She received a reply from UTEP: “I thought El Paso, Texas, I’ve heard of that. So it must be a big city,” Trejo said.

She opened up an atlas and found El Paso, a town on the far west edge of Texas, bordering Mexico, with a population of around 300,000 at the time. “Look it’s on the Mexican border. So there I had it—travel, excitement, adventure,” she said.

Knowing very little about the city or the desert climate, she accepted the offer to be an instructor in the department of English and drove with a friend to Texas. Trejo worked in the English department for 27 years before moving to the Department of Communication. She did not officially transfer to the communication department until 1994 after she received her Ph.D. in modern letters from the University of Tulsa.

In 1984, the UTEP Forensics Program, commonly known as speech and debate, needed a new acting director, and someone—not Trejo—was offered the job. The program was in danger of being canceled. The person who was going to take over became ill and couldn’t take the position, but they knew that she had a background in forensics.

“My mentor and friend who couldn’t take over the job, recommended me for a temporary (position) and I’ve been doing it since,” she said.

Now, 52 years later since first accepting a position at UTEP, Trejo is ready retiring.

Trejo has won multiple teaching awards. She has been awarded two educator of the year awards in Texas, she was awarded top teacher in 1984 at UTEP for teaching excellence, in 1993 she was awarded the highest distinction in the order of instruction by Phi Kappa Delta, an international forensics honor society.

“Bottom line, first-instinct reaction, gut-level, is that I liked this,” Trejo said.

When she first took the position, UTEP did not have a great reputation for forensics.

“My first year out as a coach, couches who I would meet, when they heard what school I was from would turn their backs to me and walk away,” she said.

“So I learned to say, I’m the new coach at UTEP, I’m brand new, I don’t know anybody and I don’t know any of the old people, and then they would talk to me.”

Since then, the team has gone on to win multiple national competitions. If anyone were to go to the first floor of Cotton Memorial, they would find the wall lined with trophies won during her tenure.

“I can remember about five or so years after I became the director of forensics, I was at the national Phi Alpha Delta tournament, and the national president came up to me and said ‘thank you for what you have done for that team, you have done so much to bring that team back, and I hadn’t realized anyone had noticed,’” Trejo said.

Even though she has driven the team to win competition after competition, her students say that she always puts education and personal achievement first.

“Dr. Trejo is a very firm believer in the educational aspect of the speech and debate kind of activity, so she doesn’t care whether or not you come home with everything or if you come home with nothing,” said Matthew Mager, a senior political science major who is on the forensics team. “She wants to make sure that you’ve learned something; that you feel safe and that you’re ready to go out the next time.”

Her dedication to students was not only in their academic life, but also in their personal lives as well.

“Earlier in the fall, I left my job, it was a little too demanding and my grades were suffering. I don’t live at home with my parents or anything like that and I’m realizing that I shouldn’t be stacking up,” Mager said. “I spoke to Dr. Trejo about what my situation was going on and she said ‘let me see what I can do about that.’”

Trejo then created a scholarship for students on the debate team who are struggling and have been a part of the program for 4 years. She awarded the scholarship to Magee.

“I don’t have to worry about the bills that were stacking up while at the same time I can still focus on my grades and get close to graduation,” Mager said. “I owe her greatly for that.”

To many students, she is the forensics team. She has been a constant presence at UTEP that provided advice and comfort to her students.

“She taught me that we are in a place of significance during important times, and that to me is so empowering and comes to show that we all have a unique voice we can tap into here at UTEP,” said Dominic Chacon, a senior environmental science major, who is now going to graduate school because of Trejo’s influence.

Mike Brooks, a communications lecturer, has worked with Trejo for over 20 years.

“The history of the team itself is kind of dependent on her presence and her involvement here. So I would say she is the heart of forensics really,” Brooks said.

Although Trejo still plans on being involved with the team and UTEP, one of her last official acts as director will be hosting a speech and debate camp at UTEP where middle and high school students spend a week alongside national champions.

She still has intellectual energy and ambition and is ready to pursue her next goal creative writing.

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For more information about the speech and debate camp, email fkmunene@live.com.

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Saying goodbye to being a UTEP student and my job at The Prospector

By Ashley Munoz

I would first like to thank everyone for the opportunity to work with The Prospector. It has been an amazing four years with Student Media & Publications and UTEP.

Over the years, the department has allowed me to grow as both a student and as an individual. They are the most supportive and kind-hearted people to work with. I have made many memories with the department. My fondest memory with The Prospector was creating the Ms. Centennial drawing, which won a national award. The illustration represented everything UTEP is, strong, beautiful, and unique.

Throughout these last four years I have experienced many things such as meeting new people, gaining new skills to prepare me for the work force and even learning a new language. As the years have passed, the road to graduation became clearer and clearer. I have had family members tell me once I graduate, reality sets in-you are now a true “community member” headed to the work force. To be honest, I am scared and excited to graduate because I have worked two jobs non-stop in order to help my financial situation.

I have had to work through the day, go to class and then drive home and rest before heading into my second job at night. After a while, working two jobs and going to school takes a toll on you both mentally and physically. However, working hard does pay off.

There is a saying in my family that we go by, “no sacrifice, no victory.” With every little sacrifice we make, a larger victory is gained. I will be the first in my family to graduate. It is a milestone that means a lot to both my parents and me. Even though I have worked and studied for four years, all of it is nothing compared to the amount of sacrifices my parents have made.

I remember my first day at UTEP. I was scared, yet determined. I wanted to force myself to thrive and grow, to go beyond my comfort zone and explore new things. I am honestly sad I did, but not without making memories I will truly treasure. I can also say I have had the pleasure of watching UTEP grow as well. The first time I walked through the university grounds, it was barely taking its first steps toward becoming an open-area, pedestrian campus.

I’ve watched them build Centennial Plaza from the ground up. I can truly say I have watched and lived through UTEP history. I was also excited to be a part of the Centennial celebration/anniversary. Now, I’m excited to become a UTEP alumnus and am not waiting to see my sister begin her journey at UTEP. It will be fun to see what kind of memories she will make as a Miner.

Saying goodbye is bittersweet, but I know I am moving on to a new adventure. As Marilyn Monroe said, “I believe that everything happens for a reason. People change so that you can learn to let go, things go wrong so that you can appreciate them when they go right, you believe lies so you eventually learn to how to trust, and sometimes, good things fall apart so better things can fall in place together.”

ashley Munoz may NOT be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com
Mother of three reflects on going to school at the same time as her sons

BY JAKE DEVEN

Most college students might not be too excited if one of their parents were enrolled at the same school as them at the same time. But for brothers Albert and Samuel Nava, doing it with their mom has been a rewarding experience.

Jaclyn Nava, 40, graduated in 2001 with a bachelor’s degree in accounting from UTEP, and will be graduating this spring from the School of Nursing. Returning to school after 15 years was an effort she first made with hesitation, but she said attending college at the same time as her two sons, 22-year-old Albert and 18-year-old Samuel, has been a welcome change this time around.

“The transition of going back to school was a little difficult,” Nava said. “I feel like I don’t learn things as fast, I don’t retain things as easy, but with my two sons going to school with me has been a big help.”

One of the biggest challenges when switching from accounting to nursing was retaining her brain to understand science concepts, as opposed to having the business-focused mindset developed in her years as an accountant. Aside from studying theory and learning new material, Nava also must complete a series of clinicals, requiring her to spend all day at the hospital, putting what she is learning in theory into practice.

“Accounting is a very different profession than nursing. I wanted a second career, I wanted to do something different,” Nava said. “I wasn’t quite sure what to expect, but it is almost a 180. So, my hat goes off to nursing students because it’s very challenging.”

As a wife and mother of three, Nava knows what it’s like to have a busy schedule on top of raising a family. Homework, movies on Friday nights, we study and so it was awesome to learn through my sons.” Nava said.

The Prospector

come over to study. “Another aspect of the college life that Most college students might not be With Nava and her sons ... ule on top of raising a family. Homework vous about going back to school since many of her classmates would be closer to her sons ages.

“I kind of felt a little bit intimidatied going back to school with students who are the same age as my two boys, but I actu- ally think that having my boys being that age, I was able to relate to my classmates very well,” Nava said.

Nava and her oldest son, Albert, a first-year doctoral student in UTEP’s School of Pharmacy, have been going to school together for over a year now. Everything from homework and studying to lunch and carpooling have become a synergized venture that the mother and son say has helped them stay motivated.

“We have a round table at home and we all study there, so we all understand that finals are here,” Nava said. “So we all get our books and our laptops and study together. And instead of being at the movies on Friday nights, we study and sometimes, even have group members come over to study.”

With Nava and her sons all being health science students, sharing textbooks and notes is a luxury that not many students can relate to. The family often examines each other’s respective fields to see how they can help one another.

Nava, a soon-to-be registered nurse, has gotten help from her sons to understand the uses and side effects of medications that she’s come across during her clinicals.

“We’ve talked a lot about the role of the nurse and the role of the pharma- cist and how one can help the other in settings such as a hospital,” Nava said. Nava’s sons see their mom go through that stress and anxiety right before an exam and find it humorous that she understands what it is like to stress over a test.

“We used to say we weren’t ready for a test after studying all night and she would say ‘that’s not possible’ but now she knows what it feels like,” Albert said. Being away from school for a long period of time would likely take a toll on anyone who’s thinking of returning, especially in the original age, where campuses everywhere are utilizing technol- ogy and education.

For Nava, the innovative solutions that UTEP adopted since she was a business undergrad have been the hardest to get used to. Having homework assignments and exams online is a new experience for her, but the learning curve has been valuable to her relationship with her sons.

“They help me a lot with the technol- ogy stuff, like Google Docs and Blackboard. I had no idea what those were, so it was awesome to learn through my sons,” Nava said.

Another aspect of the college life that she has adopted from her sons and has grown to enjoy, which her sons find hiliar- ous, is the meme culture.

“She’s posting them all over our group chat,” Albert said.

Nava’s sons say their mom often switches from accounting to nursing is one of the many reasons why they chose to pursue a degree in a related field. Albert’s orig- inal plan was to attend the pharmacy program at UT Austin, until UTEP an- nounced their pharmacy program that will allow him to get his Ph.D.

Nava is eternally thankful for her cousin, a former Texas legislator, who was one of the original supporters for the School of Pharmacy at UTEP.

“There was a lot of little things that pointed back to our family, which was the strangest thing but I guess it was meant to be,” Nava said. “The stars just aligned. I never thought that Albert would be in El Paso going to pharmacy school while I’m going to nursing school. And when we put a monetary value to it, it’s almost a hundred thousand dollars that we’re saving.”

Being one of the first in her family to graduate college back in 2001, Nava pursued a new education as a challenging climate is a feat that dem- onstrates her willingness to provide for and succeed with her family. She is currently interning at The Hospitals of Providence in the pediatrics depart- ment, where she hopes that it will turn into a full-time position.

“My mom has a bachelor’s of business administration in accounting, soon to be an RN, and on top of that, a Ph.D. in par- enting,” Albert said.
The top 10 seniors pose at the Honors Convocation on April 22 at Magoffin Auditorium including Christian Morales-Castañeda, Tyler Herrera, Paloma Martinez, Aileen Tapia, Victoria Diaz, Malvina Muñoz, Victor Hurtado, Aileen Tapia and Lana Husseini.

Victoria Diaz–biological sciences, with a biomedical concentration

Throughout her years as a Miner, Diaz was the vice president and president of the University’s Scholar Society as a member of A-Prime Time, an organization designed to support the student’s involvement with outside and on-campus events. Diaz also completed a research internship with Rice University.

Diaz is in the process of choosing what her future will look like. She has received letters of acceptance from the El Paso Paul F. Foster School of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine and UT Health Science Center of Houston’s McGovern Medical School. As a member of A-Prime Time, she completed a service learning program by visiting the state of Queretaro in Mexico. Dur- ing her time in Queretaro, Diaz was shocked because patients were not receiving the proper medical treatment they deserved.

“I made a promise to myself as a doc- tor that I would help the people that need it the most, and the people who are suffering the most,” Diaz said. “One of my biggest planks after I become a doctor is to one day return to El Paso and help our community.”

Aileen Tapia–industrial and systems engineering

Tapia said that being a top 10 senior is not about getting the highest grades, but about being an active student who shows a real interest in their career.

“I legit cried when I opened the let- ter,” she said. “My hard work was be- ing honored and recognized and it just felt awesome!”

Tapia is a member of Alpha Pi Mu, the industrial engineering honors society at UTEP, and the engineering collegiate senator for UTEP’s Student Government Association. She was also a member of Latinos in Engineering and Science, one of the 4,000 national representatives for the Society of His­panic Professional Engineers and in­terned with Lockheed Martin, General Electric and Boeing, the world’s largest aerospace company.

Tapia is from Houston, where she will start working with Accenture as a consultant analyst.

“One of my long-term goals is to have my own consulting company—in specif- ic data analytics,” Tapia said. “I also want to be part of a women’s program where I feel that Latinos in STEM and women empowerment are things that we really need to work on.”

Carlos Ontiveros–biological sciences with a biomedical concentration

Ontiveros has served as the presi­dent and the vice president of inter­nal affairs for the Medical Professions Organization, where he helped UTEP and high school premedical students in their journeys toward becoming professional health-care professionals.

He was a member of the UTEP Phage (bacterial virus) Hunters program, where he was able to become the co-author of four genomic annotation publications.

During his time at UTEP, Ontiveros was able to intern with the Scripp’s Re­search Institute in California to study the Zika virus and evolution genetics during the 2016 outbreak of Zika virus in the Americas. Ontiveros received letters of acceptance for three medi­cal schools including two MD/Ph.D. programs and one MD program. He has decided to attend the MD/Ph.D. program at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio’s Long School of Medicine.

“I would really love the chance to come back to UTEP and give back to the community that brought me in and took care of me and was able to prepare me to be successful,” Ontiveros said.

Lana Husseini–mechanical engineering

Husseini was a top 10 student at UTEP where she served as the chair of the Appropriations Committee and co-Chair of the Executive Program for the Stud­ent Government Association. Husseini had multiple research internships at UTEP where she served as a biological sciences, biomedical engineering and a mechanical engineering intern.

She is currently an engineering in­tern at the Texas Gas Service Company, where she works on new gas designs and structures for buildings among other things. Husseini, who is graduat­ing with honors, will move to Houston to start working at her dream job. “ ExxonMobil has always been my dream job,” Husseini said. “I’ve always wanted to intern and work with them, and it feels great to know that right after graduation I’ll be one of their employees.”

Tyler Herrera–political science

Herrera served as a research assistant at the Intelligence and National Secu­rity Department at UTEP for two years and was part of the Supreme Court for UTEP’s Student Government Associa­tion. He was an intern with Congress­man Beto O’Rourke in 2015 and an intern for the Department of Defense in Washington D.C.

“I worked with wounded veterans to turn them into professional, skilled, PTSD counseling and cancer treat­ment,” Herrera said.

Herrera has now accepted a job at the U.S. Department of State to work in the Foreign Service.

“I’m going to have a career overseas after graduation and just hope to learn to speak more languages,” Herrera said. He said that graduating on the top 10 list was a way to honor those who sup­ported him in his college experience.

“I wanted to do it for my parents it was more for them than for me,” he said. “I just wanted to give them some­thing to show off my appreciation that I feel for them.”

Paloma Martinez–art history

As the president of the Art History Association, Martinez took the initia­tive to show her artistic skills to the community of El Paso. In 2017, she painted a mural at the Mexican Consul­late of El Paso that represents the unifi­cation of the United States and Mexico. She was one of eight students who term­inated with the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City in 2016. Mar­tinez also served as the Vice President for the Student Govern­ment Association.

“Im planning to move to New York City in July, even though I don’t have a concrete job offer yet,” Martinez said. “And after that I want to get into a fine arts department.”

Martinez said she does see herself as a professor at some point in her life, but that succeeding as an artist is her main goal.

Malvina Muñoz–biological sciences with a biomedical concentration

Muñoz, who is a member of the Medical Professions Organization at UTEP has served as a member and the president of Miners Against Hunger. She’s also been a success networking team facilitator for the National Soci­ety of Leadership and Success, a sec­retary for Students Pushing At-Risk Kids, senior advisor for the National Secu­rity Student Association, and a mem­ber of the University’s Scholar Soci­ety.

Muñoz, who will also graduate with honors, will continue to further her education by attending the biomedical engineering doctoral program at UTEP. Her goal is to become a biomedical en­gineer and create devices that will help those in need of support.

“El Paso has done so much for me,” Muñoz said. “So I would love to create a program, maybe a non-profit organi­zation. I would like to provide anything that I create, like life-saving devices for people who can’t afford them.”

Christian Morales-Castañeda– English and American literature

When Morales opened the letter that said he was among the top 10 seniors, he cried for minutes. He said that it was an honor to know that his love for the university and his hard work were recognized by UTEP.

During his time at UTEP, he served as the traffic court chief justice for the Student Government Association, pub­lic relations officer for Sigma Tau Delta, which is an English Honor Society, and a member of the Student Black Union, among other organizations.

He was also the founding president for the Society of Collegiate Leader­ship and Achievement, an honors society that seeks to increase com­munity service within the campus and that strives to strengthen the leadership and networking capaci­ties of everyone at UTEP.

Morales interned with the National­ Education Association, but said that working at UTEP is what he is striving for.

“This is my place, I don’t see myself working for any other company, uni­versity, and not even for another family,” he said.

Victor Hurtado–art history

As an active member of the Art His­tory Association, Hurtado has gone out to the community of El Paso to give talks and presentations about the art­work in El Paso. He interacted with the Texas Historical Commission in Aus­tin, where he worked with the Commu­nity Heritage Development Division and the Division of Architecture, which is focused on art preservation.

After his junior year, he joined the Architectural Preservation Com­mittee with the Texas State Museum, which he has given tours about the history of El Paso. He has also cre­ated several documentaries on historic preservation, specifically about the destruction of several architectural structures in the downtown area of El Paso. Hurtado will be taking a gap year to take different language courses that will help him have a better knowledge and appreciation of art and history be­hind it. After that, he hopes to continue further his educational enrollment in graduate school.

“Our students need to have a better knowledge of the arts and ar­chitecture of El Paso and that he would like to bring opportunity to come back as a professor.”

“I really think UTEP needs more cul­tural programs because we have a knowledge of cultural backgrounds,” Hurtado said. “Art history is needed here. El Paso is a very cultural city and it’s, unfortunately, being underserved and it would be great to come back and teach.”

Rachel Arreola–theatre arts

Arreola journey to graduation will be slightly different from the major­ity of the graduates at UTEP. Arreola, who is an Archer Fellow and an intern with the Kennedy Center, a performing arts center in Washington D.C., will stay back to El Paso just in time for her graduation.

Arreola will then fly back to D.C. to finish her internship where she has been working in Turnaround Arts—a program that uses the arts as a educa­tional tool to encourage students to en­gage inside and outside the classroom.

While at UTEP, Arreola served as a teaching assistant for the Depart­ment of Theatre, as an archivist for the University, and not to sound too cliché, but working for any other company, uni­versity, and not even for another family, “ he said. “This is my place. I don’t see myself working for any other company, uni­versity, and not even for another family,” he said.

“I made a promise to myself as a doc­tor that I would help the people that need it the most, and the people who are suffering the most,” Diaz said. “One of my biggest planks after I become a doctor is to one day return to El Paso and help our community.”

Follow Rene Delgadillo on Twitter at @rdelgadillonews
Graduating as the worst honors student

By Paulette Villa

This last semester on the day before spring break, my friend invited me to go visit our old high school department because she cause she and other UTEP students had to give a presentation on how to attend college to the parents of students in the English as a Second Language (ESL) class.

I was eventually forced to participate, which made me feel melanocholic seeing those parents trying to find the best sources for their children because they didn’t know English.

I suddenly remembered going through similar experiences with my parents before entering college that I had completely blocked out of my mind.

I always felt left behind ever since I started my education in the U.S. due to language barriers, discrimination and misunderstanding of the culture which made me always underestimated myself. I had 43% in most of my classes, spent many days in tutoring, got several referrals, had intense parent-teacher conferences, and even met my high school sweet heart in summer school because I failed pre AP English.

But somehow teachers enjoyed my creativity, I got recommended performance on TAKS tests and I gained college credits through AP exams. I just accepted the fact that I would never be an outstanding student or have a bright future like the top 10 percent of the class, so I just went with the flow. Coincidentally, that was the theme of the yearbook, where I was one of the editors and which was the first time I had stepped out of my comfort zone.

In the last year of high school, I finally felt comfortable having full conversations in English and I fell in love with interviewing, editing, making videos, taking photographs and even writing stories related with publishing and multimedia, which is why I decided to major in multimedia and art design. I was only good at painting and sculpture.

College went by pretty fast, but in spite it was not sure, since I started to develop an anxiety disorder. Receiving letters of being on the dean’s list was always odd to me, since having some good grades and a high GPA was never my intention. I suddenly felt this pressure to keep doing well and not lower my expectations.

I just pressed forward this semester, since I was told I would be walking cum laude and I even went to the Liberal Arts office to ask if they were sure it was not a mistake. I also started to worry about what my mother, who is still an overseas teacher and feels insecure about why I should be graduat- ing because I have not been successful at this.

Finally, I realized the main source of my pain were not the exams, nor the deadlines or critiques, but it was me. It was my insecurities that stopped me from truly enjoying my education and I kept stressing on being the excel- lent student I never got to be before. I might have been a slacker in high school, but I was relaxed and happy in life, and I liked that about that.

After graduation, I will be on a sabbatical year to explore what I re- ally want, take care of myself, travel, spend quality time with friends and family without any worries and still put into practice the skills I already gained these years through some freelance work. I plan to pursue a master’s degree in the future because I want to, not because I have to.

I need to take a break in order to feel that urge and passion of doing something different.

The best things about college were finding myself, being able to take risk, explore ideas with my classmates and getting to know them outside of a competitive and educational environment. I learned a lot from them, the same as I did with my professors. Speaking of my profes- sor, I could not have done one thing I learned and appreci- ated in each and every one of them. They were truly a strong source of inspiration.

Finally, I want to thank everyone I got to meet at The Prospector, even if it was for a short period of time. It was hard to adapt in just one semes- ter, especially being my last and hardest one, but all of you were re- ally nice to me and I truly wish you all the best.

I would like to specifically thank Kathy, Gigi, Rene and Michelle for your understanding and patience. I fell into different types of hard times, but she always took care of me through. Gabby and Alexandra, I enjoyed our conversations and my respect to each other being in The Prospector and the graphic de- sign program at the same time.

I finally realized that the reason I was so scattered was because I expected from this publication and I encourage any journalist or graphic designer to join, even if it’s just for a semester.

Going back to the high school presentation, I told the parents that I understood their experience and also told the students not to be dis- couraged with their performance in high school. For those continuing at UTEP be thankful for having sources the university offers, be cu- rious and do not see it as an obliga- tion but an opportunity to enjoy having opportunity of studying in this unique border city.

What I learned at UTEP

By Alejandra Gonzalez

The Prospector

Art became something I wished really early on to be able to do. I had some pe- riods of struggle and hard work, but I always knew this was a life that would not happen even at times when you think you can’t do it anymore or won’t make it. To tell you the truth, I am still living that right now at this very moment. And that is the beauty of being a college student—the struggle always present because you push every forward. That is something I wished I had really opened up myself to when I first began this journey.

The vast opportunities of obtaining experience, and being a part of a student body that is one big family, was something I wished I had a part of from the very beginning. I used to be afraid of taking challenges, but I realized I had to examine myself with just concentrating on my classes.

To tell you the truth, these last 12 months working at The Prospector have given me more insight of the real world, of my capabilities in working under pres- sure and my weaknesses when not doing something I could say I was proud of. I think that in my six years of college, this year has been the most fortuitous.

I think that is what college is all about, to learn from your mistakes in a saner of- fer but also what it brings it you.

No matter what you choose to con- centrate on, the essential part of the journey is to always continue learning from your experiences, the professors that will keep on motivating you and all the people you get to meet. It makes me feel a little nostalgic about everything I had to go through just to get here—just when I had made strong connections with all my professors, classmates, bosses and coworkers, I am a few steps away from missing them all goodbye and start a new journey of my own.

As startling as it may be to move away from being a student and actually work- out in the real world, I know that I am leaving UTEP with an improved mindset, and willing to push even as much as I can from what life now offers.
Goodbye UTEP and Prospy and thanks for the journalistic adventure

By Aylin Tafoya
The Prospector

I’ve always been one to take the initiative in order to keep advancing in life, and one to look at other alternatives rather than giving up. Much like how journalists have been doing for a long time: Becoming a journalist is my dream. It’s a dream I didn’t know I had until recent years at UTEP. I searched high and low for a major that fit my skills, personality and passions. Finally I ended up head over heels for this profession.

I’ve been deviated into other career paths by what other people thought I should do, by taking the easy way out and conforming to what was expected of me. However, when I finally took a step back and listened to the “language of the world” multimedia journalism spoke to me. It was only a matter of time before I realized my calling and pursued such an interesting, challenging, eye-opening and inspiring career.

The element that I most value in life is the truth and becoming a journalist has given me a platform where I can speak my mind and speak the truth. I call it “standing in the sun”. Imagining being at the beach, relaxing on the shore with your feet in the sand, waiting for the waves to reach you and in a way purify you. All the while, the rays of the sun on your skin make you shine and keep you warm. When you stand in the sun, you’re exposed, yet you’re at peace. You’re your true self. This is what journalists are trying to do for the world and how being a journalist makes me feel.

Uncovering stories through writing, taking photos of the fragments of life around us, recording what needs to be shared around the world while traveling the globe and meeting new people who are capable of making an impact within their societies are my goals in life. These are goals that I was able to accomplish and get closer to by being part of a great team at The Prospector. I was hesitant to join at first because I meant I was actually taking a step into the real world. But I would do it again, eagerly, and even earlier in life than I did.

At The Prospector, I was taught that journalists are students and teachers, simultaneously. They learn something new every day and then they go out and spread that knowledge. When they try to be silenced, they find other means of distributing the news without leaving any nook and cranny untouched. Working with this team taught me that journalists are good people, because they care for others more than they care for themselves.

To be a journalist is to be great and I always strive for greatness. To be a journalist is to be constantly challenged and I always like a stimulating environment. It’s how most great ideas are developed and how most great people come to make a change and difference in life. To be a journalist, for me, means to be happy and everyone deserves to feel happy. Aylin Tafoya may NOT be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com

The Center for Accommodations and Support Services congratulates the Spring 2018 Graduating Class. We wish you success and could not be more proud of you!
Growth in El Paso continues as the second quarter of 2018 approaches

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

Here are just some of the most important topics that arose in 2018:

O’ROURKE VS. CRUZ: Can Texas vote blue in a sea of red?

After storming through the Democratic Primary, El Paso native and Congressman Beto O’Rourke is the Texas Democratic Party’s big hope to unseat Ted Cruz in the 2018 U.S. Senate race.

He has been traveling throughout Texas, hosting town halls. There hasn’t been a Democratic senator from Texas since 1993, but O’Rourke said “failure is not an option” after his primary victory in March.

This past month, he announced that he raised $6.7 million in donations through 2018, which surpassed Cruz’s $3.2 million raised in the same period.

O’Rourke is running a grassroots campaign and rejects corporate donors to fund his campaign. His political platform includes immigration reform, giving back a voice to smaller communities across Texas and looking to provide alternate transportation to the area.

When it is completed, the streetcars will travel on a five-mile route, linking the downtown area to the UTEP campus. It plans to have 27 stops, including Wi-Fi on each car and will affect traffic in the UTEP area.

USL team awaits identity

In February, MountainStar Sports Group announced that they would be bringing a United Soccer League team to El Paso as part of a league expansion project.

El Paso’s team will start play in March 2019, and in the coming weeks they will announce the teams name, bring in coaches and players and work toward a future stadium.

MountainStar Sports Group plans on having a more permanent location for the USL team by the 2020 season, which could be different from the disputed Duranguito area’s multi-event center. They want to place the USL team somewhere downtown, but the location is yet to be determined.

Escobar on pace to make Texas history

After her victory over Dori Fenenbock in the Democratic Primary for the 16th Congressional District seat, Veronica Escobar is on track to become Texas’ first Latina woman elected to Congress.

She will take on local Republican nominee Rick Seeberger in the general election on Nov. 6.

Elections are defined by appealing problems on the border, helping immigrants and she has continuously voiced her opposition against President Donald Trump.

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @adrian_broaddus
A farewell to the best of times and the Prospector

By Jeremy Carranco

Arriving on campus as a freshman in the fall of 2014, I never would have imagined time would fly by so fast. In four years, I went from being a scared freshman and not knowing what I wanted to do, to developing a love and passion for sports journalism, to landing an internship at the San Antonio Express-News following graduation.

I started to fall in love with covering sports when I started working with the Prospector. I always knew I wanted to be a sports writer because of my love for sports growing up, but I never really got serious about it until I got involved.

My two and a half years prior to The Prospector, my only locus was getting as many bylines as I could and all it was all I cared about. Soon, I started to realize the competition in this field values experience rather than good grades. While my GPA stayed at the top, I never did anything outside of that until I started writing for The Prospector.

The first game I ever covered was a UTEP men’s basketball game back in February of 2017 and I still remember it like it was yesterday. The Miners came in on a losing streak and were struggling to find a win, but to the surprise of everyone there that night, they upset Conference USA leader Middle Tennessee, 75-54, for a win that marks the best two past seasons. While I struggled about how I wanted to write out the recap because of the shocking result, I was thankful for that first experience because I quickly learned how to prepare myself for games going forward, having multiple drafts for multiple results.

Since then, I have covered every sport at UTEP, while also serving as the beat writer for the UTEP women’s basketball team during the 2017-18 season. The Prospector, I never really enjoyed women’s basketball but I covered it, and now I can say it has made me a huge fan. During the season, I covered every home game and one road game at NMSU. For each game, I wrote a recap, recorded postgame interviews and tweeted updates on Twitter. Consistency was key for me, but more importantly I told myself I could do better every game going forward.

Aside from covering athletics at UTEP, I wrote about sports both collegiately and professionally across the country. The most rewarding experience of them all was when I had the opportunity to be at the Final Four media day in San Antonio last month. I met some of the most prestigious names in all of sports, while also having the opportunity to interview players and coaches from all of the Final Four teams. Some of the names I had the chance to talk to included writer Pat Forde from Yahoo! Sports, former NBA player and now analyst Charles Barkley and Hall of Fame coach Larry Brown.

As the time came more experience and since becoming sports editor at The Prospector in the fall of 2017, I can honestly say I’m ready to be a sports journalist for the rest of my life. I tell people I really say how many articles I have written since I started working, but for each one I enjoy. I am proud of each one of these stories with each story I gained more confidence. I was forced to step out of my comfort zone at times whether it was writing for entertainment, news or balancing the positive and negatives about UTEP in my storytelling. I am thankful for going through the ups and downs because I learned from it and became a better journalist.

Aside from my challenges as a student journalist on campus, balancing my summer job at the Chili Bowl with intensive summer courses was the toughest challenge of them all. I learned to organize and plan because I didn’t have some days when I wouldn’t be able to get to an article or homework assignment just until hours before deadline. Despite the tough task, I can honestly say I had fun. Each day the fun motived me pick up the pace and organize each and every part of my life.

With just days left here in El Paso and at UTEP, I am going to reflect and remember everything because this place helped shape me and find my path. College was worth it, even though I may not have thought that four years ago.

I want to thank every single person that I have gotten to know and work with at The Prospector for their advice and insight, storytelling and many everlasting memories both in and outside the office.

I want to first and foremost thank our director, Kathleen Flores, a knowledgeable woman with a strong journalistic mind, who really cranked down on journalism ethics and AP style and ensured the strength in our articles. I also want to thank the rest of the front office staff, Marcela Luna, Isabel Castillo and Veronica Gonzalez for their hard work all year round.

A special thanks to the student employees by my side—Adrian Broadus, who went with me to cover my first game and helped me throughout my sports writing; Jason Green, who hired me and really motivated me to start gaining experience; Rene Delgadillo and Christian Vasquez, for their insight on how journalism works best on social media; Gaby Velasquez, for her outstanding photos and communication, and our Editor-in-Chief Michaela Roman for sharing her experience, drive and passion that allowed everyone in the office to be the best journalists we could be, putting the best newspaper out each week.

I can’t forget to mention my sports writers aside from Broaddus and Green—Adrian Broadus, Dan iel Mendez and Isaías Ramírez—thank you for all your hard work and dedication in the last year to help make our sports coverage strong. Lastly, I also want to thank Eddie Velazquez, Leslie Saritana, Gigi Flores, Alejandra Gonzalez, Claudio Gonzalez and Claudia Hernandez for either putting a smile on my face or helping me with a story in this last year. I won’t forget any of you and wish you all the best of luck.

As I move on from UTEP and begin my life as a sports journalist, I will take in these last few weeks and reflect on the best of times. I wouldn’t be surprised if a few tears run down my face whenever I think back.
Graphic design seniors prepare for the ‘Next Stop’

BY PAULETTE VILLA
The Prospector

In 2009, graphic design professor Anne M. Giangulio came up with the idea that each semester an entire class of seniors graduating in the graphic design program have to create an exhibition of their best work during their last day of classes and invite the public in order to place their work.

The exhibition will have 17 different stations, one for each student, consisting of walls, shelves and pedistals in order to place their work. The work of each student varies from a variety of graphic design assignments, such as logos with graphic standards manuals, stationery identity designs, packaging, catalogs, posters and t-shirts.

“You’ll see them at the last minute putting together their business cards, since we get members of the design community to come here, and sometimes our students get jobs right out of the exhibition,” said Clive Cochran, senior lecturer and graphic design major with a minor in French.

The exhibition will take place at the UTEP Glass Gallery from Thursday, May 3, through Friday, May 11.

"Next Stop" graphic design senior exhibition will take place at the UTEP Glass Gallery from Thursday, May 3, through Friday, May 11.

BY PAULETTE VILLA AND GABY VELASQUEZ THE PROSPECTOR

I think the dream is to find a nice steady job here in El Paso. I have been applying for a couple of months now, got my first few round of interviews already.

- Gabriel Garcia graphic design and drawing student

I get into another.

Richard Carmona, a senior graphic design major, has worked as a freelance artist and also as a lab monitor at the graphic design lab.

"I would like to make my own business by creating several art studios, such as one on doing etching, engraving, screen printing, and another one with ceramics and graphic design," Carmona said.

Sarah Huizas, a senior graphic design major with a double minor in communication and creative writing, works as a graphic designer and writer at the Undergraduate Learning Center (UGLC).

"My plan is to attend the bilingual creative writing MFA here at UTEP," Huizas said. "I have already gotten into the program, so I planned to move on into that field because writing is one of my passions.

Denise Gonzalez, a senior graphic design major with a minor in communication, has been interested in graphic design ever since she was a child seeing logos on television.

"I feel excited, stressed, tired, but just the fact of doing this and ending my career [con bache de oro/on a high note] feels great," Torres said.

According to professor Cochran, a UTEP alumnus from the graphic design program, former students that graduated from the program can find a job all over the United States, and every advertising or design studio in El Paso is staffed with them.

"One thing that I think the university should be very proud of is how much they’ve grown by the time they come to portfolio and the amazing wealth of talent there is," Cochran said. "Maybe I’m a little prejudiced, but I think we have some exceptional students. I think my colleagues agree on that, they are just amazing.

The event will take place on Thursday, May 3, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at UTEP’s Glass Gallery, located on the third floor of the Fox Fine Arts Center. The seniors’ work will stay up at the gallery until May 11.

Paulette Villa may be reached at paulette.villa.345@gmail.com.

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$6.99 any dozen with UTEP ID
Top 10 senior takes her art to international exhibits

By Elenie Gonzalez

Painting became an escape for Paloma Vianey Martinez while she longed for solace away from the turbulence infesting Ciudad Juárez during the increase of violence in 2011.

She found a way to occupy her mind and use her creativity so that she would not become bored or dull. Martinez, who lives in Cd. Juárez, loved her city and did not want others to perceive it as only "the most dangerous city in the world," as some would suggest. She knew the potential that her beloved city had and felt she needed to share it with the public.

"When the violence was very abrupt, that meant that I had to find myself at home. I couldn't go out much and I said to myself, 'I don't want to just do nothing, I have to do something,' so that's when I started training to be an artist and I started painting more," Martinez said. "I wanted to depict a composition that could portray the culture and Juárez in a positive context instead of 'Juárez is worldwide known for terrible things.' So what I wanted to do was take all that negativity and transform it into something positive."

Martinez is an art history major with a painting minor and will be graduating this semester as a top 10 senior. She has worked tirelessly throughout her college career to develop her talent and worked toward becoming a successful artist.

As a scholarship recipient, she was able to put all her focus on her craft. She spent countless hours using a paintbrush as a means to bring to life her vision of the border. Commuting daily between Cd. Juárez and El Paso, she has a great appreciation toward the borderland.

The painter has a focus on public art and had her artwork displayed publicly. Last year, she painted a 10 by 30-foot mural at the Consulate General of Mexico in El Paso called "A Bridge Uniting Two Countries." The mural is a composition that has two windows. Martinez explains that one window represents Mexico and the other represents the United States and these two countries are united by a bridge instead of a division.

"Since it was at the consulate, I tried to stay within the theme of unity, instead of dividing the two countries I tried to unite them," Martinez said. "That mural took many, many hours, but I think it was definitely worth it. I saw it as a service to the community because I do want to become a public artist."

Martinez had her work exhibited in Mexico, the United Kingdom and will be traveling to Tokyo in a few weeks to exhibit at an international arts fair. She also received a prestigious internship at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City in the summer of 2016. She will once again find herself back in New York this summer after graduation. She plans to move in July and find work in an art gallery. Although she has some offers, nothing is set in stone, but believes that it is the best place for her to grow her art.

Martinez believes that NYC has many opportunities for artists in the public art area and she will keep applying for opportunities during her time there.

One of Martinez's goals while in the Big Apple includes getting into graduate school to get her master's degree in fine arts. She doesn't know what lies ahead in her future, but she knows that art will always remain a part of her career path and life.

"I do want to paint and keep changing society through art. I see it as community service as a community aspect instead of lucrative," Martinez said. "I think art has given me a path, I mean I still don't know if I'm going to be a successful artist, but I have been persistent about it. I've been rejected so many times, but at the same time I've also been accepted to really cool things."

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Student art exhibit to take place at the Rubin Center

By Claudia Flores
The Prospector

Sarah Aguilar, senior student art major places part of her collection of objects on the wall for the 2018 Annual Juried UTEP Student Art Exhibition.

As part of the annual tradition, the Gerald and Shatell Rubin Center is set to present the 2018 Annual Juried UTEP Student Art Exhibition for the 2017-18 academic year. “The show is put together by the Department of Art and the Rubin Center and the requirements to enter are to be a student enrolled in an art class seeking a BFA degree,” said Daniel Szwaczkowski, preparator at The Rubin Center. “And they apply by buying a couple of applications, so they can purchase up to five entries and with that they’re entering their pieces.”

For the exhibit, two jurors are brought in from out of state to look over the students’ work to see if their work will be chosen as part of the exhibit. “The jurors come in with many years of experience within the arts. They’re usually curators or directors, and they come in with their own bias and they want to see that the students are clearly representing their ideas they’re trying to convey, or they just want something pretty to look at,” Szwaczkowski said.

Students are allowed to bring in any work within the department courses, which includes painting, drawing, metals and ceramics, among others. The exhibit also features a special category for those who are not part of the department but wish to showcase their work and take a shot at forming part of the annual exhibit. “There is an interdisciplinary category for students who aren’t enrolled in the art department. They have the chance to win awards for the best of each category and the overall best of show, which means the department buys that piece,” Szwaczkowski said.

Sarah Aguilar, a senior art student, with a focus in drawing and a minor in printmaking, said she’s trying her best shot to get in the show. “It is really nerve-racking without really knowing if I’m going to make it or not, and that’s what makes it really interesting,” Aguilar said. She has been working on her piece since the fall. The piece consists of a collection of objects that she most people consider as trash, but, to her, these objects document a part of her life and surroundings. “I started with six, then 40, then 60 and now I have 108. And they’re all different questions—maybe just one or two repeated—but it’s been really fun to see how far I can push myself to do this work. I don’t think it’s finished cause it’s just so much fun,” she said.

If Aguilar makes it into the show, this will be her second time joining the exhibit. “If I make it, I will feel great about myself. I would be so lucky to get in the show. It’s always a hit or miss. It’s like playing the lottery here,” Aguilar said. “I was in the last show last year and that gave me the motivation to maybe try for a prize, and if I don’t make it, I’m going to try again because it’s something I have to get used to in the art world,” she added.

The Student Juried Art Exhibit has been a tradition since the art department opened in the mid-70s. “The graphic design studios used to be the main galleries where they also held the student shows and all the exhibits and that lasted until the early 2000, and in 2004 the Rubin Center was open and that’s when the show started to take place here,” Szwaczkowski said. According to Szwaczkowski, persistence and passion are what it takes for artists to have a successful career. “Everyone has talent, and many of our students have a great degree of talent, but talent doesn’t do it and talent doesn’t cut it all the time, so it does take a great deal of tenacity,” Szwaczkowski said. “If they really want to make a mark, studying business and management really comes in handy so they can know how to market themselves.”

Szwaczkowski added that exhibits like these give students the chance to learn about the process of applying to exhibits and art shows to grow as artists. “In baseball they have recruiter and if they see the talent of a young professional they might sign him up for ball team, you never know, but we don’t really have recruiters in the arts. So the idea is to give the artist the opportunity to showcase their artwork,” Szwaczkowski said. “If you want to become a living artist and make money, you need to know how to apply to an exhibit. You need to know how to display your artwork. You need to know all these details of how to get your artwork out there.”

Aguilar said that as a student she recommends other aspiring artists to keep trying and always ask for feedback. She added that shows like these make artists feel accepted and feel important and that students have a voice in the university. “Liberal Arts is one of the largest colleges, but if you go to our facilities, the bathrooms are always stinky. They’re really bad facilities, but having this gives us the voice to show the best of what we have, even with facilities like that we can always make beautiful work,” she said.

The 2018 Annual Juried UTEP Student Art Exhibition will be shown from May 4 through August 10. Gaby Velazquez /The Prospector

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RUBIN AND I GALLERY

Daniel Szwaczkowski, preparator at The Rubin Center, hangs students’ artwork for the 2018 Annual Juried UTEP Student Art Exhibition.

Student art exhibit to take place at the Rubin Center
Headliners set to bring diverse and unique sets to Neon Desert

BY AYLIAN TAVORA

For many years, creative and re-knowned artists have come to Neon Desert Music Festival. Each year a new lineup is released, leaving future attendees excited.

This year, some changes have been made, but the organizers of the festival have been transparent for the fans and have appropriately handled the situation.

A wide range of DJs, rappers, Latin artists and local talent has been selected to perform with El Paso crowds in the heart of downtown on Memorial Day weekend.

Dillon Francis

Platinum-selling DJ and producer Dillon Francis is set to headline El Paso's Neon Desert Music Festival this May. He stands out as a titan in the electronic dance music scene, igniting the stages of Coachella, Electric Daisy Carnival, Lulapalooza, Tomorrow World and Electric Zoo.

He was named “Best EDM Artist” by MTV in 2017. Francis is known for his hot albums, mixtapes and singles, including “AM” and “Lollipops.” By working with artists ranging from Robin Thicke to Nicki Minaj, the fluency of his talent has landed him a spot on the top of the billboard for major successes.

His latest album “Tell Me What” featuring T-Pain can catch them at Tricky Falls on May 8.

ค้นTop 10 upcoming albums to forward this summer(245,497),(748,904)

BY BRIANNA CHAVEZ

Summer time is perfect for relaxing and chilling out by the pool. However, it’s also a perfect time to enjoy brand new music. Here are 10 albums that you need to look out for this summer.

Almost Everybody “My Way” and “Carter V”

Lil Wayne has been a part of the hip-hop, pop and R&B scene for a long time. He became popular in the late 1990s with songs such as “Semi-Charmed Life,” “Eye Blind” and “Why’d You Only Call Me When You’re High.” Wayne is set to release his fifth album “Tha Carter V” on August 26.

Arctic Monkeys - Tranquility Base Hotel & Casino

The indie electronica band Matt and Kim is up made of Matt Johnson and Kim Schifino. During the spring of 2015, the eighth album of the band that Johnson and Schifino will release, following their last album “New Glow,” which came out in 2015. They surprised fans with the release of a new EP titled “We’re The Werelords” in the indie electronica band is known for their popular 2009 song, “Daylight.” Johnson recently told the Boston Globe that the duo wrote “Almost Everyday” during a small hiatus, when Schifino took her ACL stage on stage in 2017. Johnson went on to say that their hiatus made him realize what life could be like without touring and playing music. “I’m excited for the world to hear these songs, and I hope they come from a real, authentic place,” he said. The band has released four singles from the new album, including “Forever,” “Heaven,” and the recently “I Just Tried.”

The Prospers

Brianna Chavez may be reached at
bchavez@elpasotimes.com
Thanks to Anhro, department, family, friends and family for your support.
- Carlos

Finally made it! Thank you for all your support and love.
- Gabriel

Thank you for all your support and I love you all.
- Hanna

Gracias por todo tu carino y apoyo.
Los amo.
- Anais

Thank you for being there and all your support.
You are so loved.
- Alexander

Thank you for all your love and support.
- Katherine

Thank you for your love and support.
- Alexander

Thank you for all your love and support.
I love you all.
- Deena

Thank you for your love and support.
You gave me love.
- Deena

Mom, Dad, David, I DID IT!
Thanks for the rides & support.
Thanks for being there helping me pass.
- Natalia

Mom, Dad, Adrian, Luisa, and my wonderful wife.
Wouldn’t be here without you love and support.
- David

Thanks for your support.
- David

Thanks for your support.
- Deena

Thank you for your love and support.
You gave me love.
- Deena

Thank you, Mom, Dad, Adrian, Luisa, and my wonderful wife.
Wouldn’t be here without you love and support.
- David

Thank you.
To my mom and dad and the rest of my family.
- Daniel

ORTEGA
CLASS OF
2018
Congratulations

Thank you for believing in me and supporting me. I am so grateful for having such a wonderful family, friends, and the amazing people I have met at SFA. Thank you for all of your love and support.

- Paula

Gracias por todo papá!

-Jesus Pelayo

Thank you for your love and support. You have always been there for me.

-Luisa

The journey was well worth it.

Thank you to all my family and friends. You have been such an inspiration and support.

-Arturo, Abraham, and Arianna

Future is bright!

-One more to go! Final years of hard work will be worth it

2018

Conrad

Thank you, Emmanuelle, for your love and support.

-Lili S.

Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication.

-Michael

I love you.

-Luisa

Congrats class of 2018

WE MADE IT!!!

This is just the beginning!

-Mike

Late nights, no sleep... it was so worth it.

-Colin

Thank you everyone for the awesome experience.

-Santiago

First time to make it.

Congrats to everyone!

-Steven

Don't stress! It will eventually get done.

-Tim

This is the beginning.

-Andrew

 Succes!!

To all the seniors, finally did it!

-Final (Female)

A derivative of Gaussian ability

-Annika Robles

We should always strive to be

-Everyone

El poder para alcanzar al graado!

-180 Valor

100% STRONG!!

-Sam

RIP & I love you,

-10

The future awaits us! Class of 2018.

-The Class of 2018

Never give up! We made it.

-Class of 2018

Dick it for your Dad!

-RIP & I love you,

-10
Congratulations everyone!

The journey has taken many twists and turns, but we all made it through. It's time for us to celebrate our accomplishments and look forward to what the future holds.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout this process. We couldn't have done it without you.

To our friends and family, we appreciate your love and encouragement.

To our professors, thank you for guiding us through our studies.

To our parents, thank you for always being there for us.

Finally, to our fellow classmates, thank you for making this journey so much more enjoyable.

Congratulations Class of 2018!
Thank you for supporting me in all that I set out to accomplish. Love you mom & dad — Sophie B

Thank you, Mom, for being a big support in whatever I need. My grandma for helping me understand. Love you so much. — Kim F.

Gracias, Mama y Papa por su continuo apoyo y amor. No seria la mujer que soy sin ustedes. Muchos amor — Aleen Legarski

Gracias mamá, por todo lo apoyar. Para entender que eres la que quieras hacer, y soportar por comprender lo que hace tu amistad. Muchas gracias — Lina

To my family, thank you for all your love and support. This would not have been possible without you. Love, Jaclyn Binger

To my family, thank you for all of your help and for motivating me — Libby

THANK YOU, MOM & DAD
I LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART — ESTEBAN

To my family thank you for all of your help and for motivating me — Lisa

Thank you for your support in my career. I couldn't have done it without you. Love you lots! — Sylvia

Gracias, Mom, Dad, Barbie, Erick for the loving support. Eduardo for pushing me to be my best! I love you. — The Barron family

Thank you for supporting me in all that I do and for being there for me always. — Ana

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Corner finds growth in a life dedicated to golf

By Jeremy Carranco

FROM the moment he picked up a club at the age of 7, Charles Corner made the game of golf his life staple: “I got a wooden club from my dad on my 7th birthday and I just started swinging it around my yard,” Corner said. “That eventually turned into me playing with him when he went out on the course and from there I started to play in tournaments.”

Hailing from Canada in the town of Cayuga, Ontario, Corner looked to future and current professional golfers to help shape the way he wanted to play. “Growing up, I liked a lot of the younger guys coming out of college, like Rickie Fowler, Jordan Spieth, Justin Thomas, that new wave of different golfers that had a different approach to the game,” he said. “Obviously, Tiger Woods was a golf icon when I was growing up, so I liked him too right off the bat.”

Even though he wanted to be on the course every chance he got, the weather in Cayuga did not allow him to. He had to learn quick and adjust to cold weather conditions in order to find the right time to practice on the course. At times he had to play indoors in order to keep his body prepared.

Once he found out he was heading to UTEP to play in the southwest, in 2014, Corner knew he would have more time on the course. “I went from practicing and playing six months of the year to 12 months of the year,” he said. “I was excited to finally play when I could,” he said. “That was big for me and a positive aspect of helping me get my game to the next level. Also, people here were so welcoming, so it’s been a great experience. “I’m so grateful for the way he has been so consistent. I know there are several athletes that have had success at UTEP men’s golf, but I think Corner is the first one to really set the bar high.”

Corner has been a consistent player on the course every chance he got, so it’s been a great experience. “Coming in as a freshman, Charles (Corner) had the talent but was pretty raw and unrefined,” said UTEP head coach Scott Lieberwirth. “To see where he is now and the growth in four years, it’s just been fantastic and he’s exactly what you picture your seniors to be when they come in as freshman.”

In the classroom, the senior has been just as bright with a 3.60 GPA in finance that earned him recognition by C-USA as one of five men’s golf student-athletes named in the 2018 InTouch Credit Union All-Academic Team. As a multi-CUSA Honor Roll winner and Academic Medal recipient, Corner was also named an All-Conference Second Teamer and a Golf Coaches Association of America Distinguished Student-Athlete.

“Corner’s name is not one to be forgotten,” said UTEP head coach Scott Lieberwirth. “He has been a student-athlete that has played his way onto the course every chance he got, so I liked him too right off the bat.”

Lieberwirth says having a player like Corner on his team through four years has made other players see him as a role model.

“Charles is always in a great mood, has personality and a sense of humor, definitely what you want from any player because it makes a job like mine easier,” Lieberwirth said. “This is what you hope seniors to be, the guys (other players) look up to him.”

Joining the team as a freshman in 2014, the Canadian product’s aim was to just get better every time he stepped on the course. Now, the senior is expected to return to the course as a graduate assistant for the UTEP coaching staff starting next season, while also balancing some professional play. “I’m going to be returning as a graduate assistant in the fall and doing my MBA in finance, while also playing a little bit of pro golf,” Corner said. “I’m going to get a chance to give back and help push the team and help them reach more goals. I want to bring a player’s perspective to the game.”

Corner is set to graduate in May before returning to the course to help future Miner golfers find the love and passion for the game just like him. Jeremy Carranco may be reached at the Star-Telegram Sports Wire.

A senior from Eldoret, Kenya, captured a gold medal at the C-USA outdoor event last year with a time of 3:44.64 in the 1,500-m race, going on to finish at the NCAA West Region Championships. At the Texas Team Invitational earlier this season, Koech finished first in the 800-m race, finishing with a time of 1:50.85. In 2016, Koech received a gold medal in the 800-m race and hopes to do the same this year in Houston.

Koch says to go one step further than his performance last year at the outdoor in order to capture an illustrious gold medal. Last year at the event, he finished second with the silver medal in the 5,000-m and 10,000-m race at the C-USA championships. In 2015, Koch placed third in the 10,000-m run at the C-USA championships with a time of 32:44.08 and finished in fifth place in the 5,000-m run with a time of 14:59.04. Earlier this year, the junior won the gold medal in the 5,000-m race at the Texas Team Invitational with a time of 15:12.63. Koch is looking to carry his earlier season success into the conference meet next week.

Lilian Koch—At last year’s event as a sophomore, Koch won two silver medals in the 800-m and 1,500-m race, becoming a contributing factor in the Miners’ first conference outdoor championships in program history. In 2015, Koch was named the C-USA Co-Peformer of the Meet and named to the All-CUSA second team in the 800-m and 1,500-m race. At the outdoor event in the same year, she took home the gold in the 1,500-m with a time of 4:42.70 and in the 5,000-m with a time of 16:56.81. Koch hopes to find the success she did in 2015 at this year’s conference meet in Houston.

Lucia Mokrasova —A senior from Trnecin, Slovakia, Mokrasova is looking to close out her UTEP career with a gold medal. Last season, the multi-event fielder ranked 12th nationally in the heptathlon with 5,671 points registered at the Texas Relays, she also set the school record in the heptathlon with that mark. In 2016, Mokrasova captured a silver medal in the heptathlon at the outdoor C-USA championships and was named to the All-CUSA first team in the pentathlon and to the All-CUSA second team in the heptathlon. The standout senior also was named as an Honorable Mention All-American at the NCAA Championships at the 2017 outdoor championships, with an impressive 7,572 points in the heptathlon.

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Recapping the 2018 NFL draft with winners and losers

BY MIKE FLORES

The 2018 NFL draft was a big night for many football players all around the nation. The athletes made their dreams a reality when they heard their names called, joining one of the NFL's 32 franchises.

The draft turned out to be special for UTEP, as offensive lineman Will Hernandez was taken with the No. 34 pick overall to the New York Giants. Hernandez was the highest selected Miner since 2006, when Thomas Howard was picked by the Oakland Raiders. Also, with Hernandez getting drafted, it marked back-to-back years that a UTEP football player was taken in the draft—a first since the 2008 draft.

Hernandez made a name for himself during his time as a Miner, blocking and paving the way for UTEP's all-time leading rusher Aaron Jones (4,114 yards). During Hernandez's 49 career starts as a Miner, UTEP's offensive line was one of the conference's best. The line under Hernandez allowed one or no sacks in 27 contests, ranked first in Conference USA for sacks allowed in 2014 and 2015 and Hernandez received back-to-back AP All-American honors.

Due to his stellar collegiate career, Hernandez was projected a late first-round pick by many sports media outlets. However, Hernandez did not hear his name called in the first day of the draft, but was the second pick in the second round.

In 2017, the Giants were ranked with the 26th-worst rushing offense, recording just 1,549 total rushing yards. With the second overall pick in the first round, New York got their tailback of the future in Penn State star Saquon Barkley. To protect their prized pick, the Giants got the 6-foot-2, 327-pounder from UTEP to go along with Nate Soldier on their line.

Both of the Giants' top picks could help pick up their rushing game and offense in total for a team that went a disappointing 3-13.

Besides Hernandez, some other Miners made their way to NFL rosters too. Linebacker Alvin Jones was picked up as a free agent by the Baltimore Ravens and lineman Logan Tuley-Tillman was invited to the San Francisco 49ers minicamp.

WINNERS:

1. Arizona Cardinals

The Arizona Cardinals lost two very important pieces to their team this offseason, head coach and quarterback whisperer Bruce Arians and quarterback Carson Palmer, both left due to retirement. After Palmer called it quits, the team was in desperate need for a signal caller. They brought out their checkbook for an unproven and injury risk of a quarterback in Sam Bradford.

It seemed unlikely that Bradford was the solution at quarterback for the Cardinals in the long-term. So, on draft night, with the 15th pick, it didn't look good for the Cardinals, as they were looking to grab their quarterback of the future, until they moved up five draft spots via trade, taking UCLA's Josh Rosen.

Not only is Rosen the most NFL-ready quarterback from a superior class of signal callers, but also he gives the Cardinals the hopes of a bright future for the next decade. Arizona also has one of the best tailbacks, David Johnson, to take the pressure off of Rosen. The Cardinals said they would be aggressive in getting a quarterback and they did so on the first night of the draft.

To go along with Rosen, Arizona added a target for him with their second-round draft choice, Texas A&M wideout Christian Kirk.

2. Baltimore Ravens

The Baltimore Ravens general manager Ozzie Newsome was the talk of the night in the first round of the draft. His Ravens moved back twice in the draft, piling up future draft picks, but still managed to get the players they needed and wanted.

With two first-round picks, the Ravens bolstered up their struggling offense. They selected an impact tight end Hayden Hurst from South Carolina. Hurst has drawn comparisons to Eagles playmaking tight end Zach Ertz because both are around 6-foot-5, 240 pounds, had very similar NFL Combine results and can each make winning plays from a dying position.

WINNERS:
Lucia Mokrasova holds the school record in both the heptathlon and indoor pentathlon.

The UTEP track team is diverse and filled with multiple cultures. It is the home for athletes who break national and world records in their events.

Senior Lucia Mokrasova, who is from Trenčín, Slovakia, is one of those athletes. Mokrasova is the school record holder in the heptathlon and indoor pentathlon. The record breaker has finished in the top three of Conference USA Indoor Track and Field in 2018 season and is coming off an All C-USA First Team (pentathlon) and All C-USA Second Team (heptathlon) recognition.

After a strong indoor season, where she improved her school pentathlon record (3,964 points), the senior hopes to close out the outdoor track season stronger than she started. “I didn’t start really well,” Mokrasova said. “I didn’t get the start that I wanted, but this year is a little different for me. We are working on different things, so I’m just trying to stay patient.”

Those new things were different techniques in training, such as improving her jumping. But what the Slovakian has found the most rewarding accomplishment so far in her senior season is her record on the pentathlon. “It was unexpected this year for me, because I didn’t know what to expect, but at the end, I was so happy because pentathlon was very difficult for me mentally,” she said. “So, it was kind of like a reward for me.”

The 24-year-old has been all around the European circuit competing in IAAF World Junior Championships prior to coming to UTEP. When she first set foot on campus, she was one of the first European athletes on the track team. As she is completing her senior season, she has seen the growth in herself. “For me, it’s been kind of tough, I had a hard time,” Mokrasova said. “But I was trying to like always find some positives, like how you have to maybe push yourself or help yourself mentally to balance school and sports. It’s teaching me a lot, so I’m grateful for it.”

One of the best things about the culturally diverse team is that Mokrasova says she has learned about many different cultures from her teammates. “Other than breaking records, her favorite moments as a Miner were the track meets themselves. From the atmosphere of the meet to her preparation before the meet begins, she always found a deep passion for the different meets. As for future endeavors past this season, she wants to finish school. The C-USA First Team athlete does not want to lose focus and start thinking how this track season could be her last. “Because then you get really emotional and maybe you’ll lose focus or you already thinking about and I don’t really like that,” Mokrasova said. “I just do my best this year and see what’s going to be next year.”

One of the things she looks forward to is to continue spending time in El Paso. Her comfort level with the city is something she keeps working on. “I think I’m still in process,” she said. “It’s like to me, it was kind of like a shock, but you have to keep working at it because that’s what helps you to feel comfortable, so for me I’m still in process.”

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Baltimore only has one more year of Joe Flacco getting guaranteed money, so with the 32nd overall pick, they got former Heisman trophy-winning quarterback Lamar Jackson to possibly succeed Flacco.

Also adding to their offensive look, the Ravens picked up NMSU wide receiver Jaleel Scott, who adds to a receiving core, consisting of Michael Crabtree and Willie Snead.

3. Carolina Panthers

The Panthers went 11-5, made the playoffs, have an MVP quarterback in Cam Newton and a stellar defense led by linebacker Luke Kuechly. But the one thing the Panthers were lacking was a No. 1 wide receiver. Their receiving core last year was a bunch of no names after they traded Kelvin Benjamin to the Bills.

This year’s draft was weak on wide receivers outside of the Calvin Ridley and the one the Panthers ended up drafting—D.J. Moore, the 6-foot-0 wide out from Maryland. Moore will be an immediate starter who can make a quick impact to a b Canary body. Newton will be more than happy with his new toy.

Even former Panthers receiver Steve Smith, who led the team in all-time receiving yards, said that the Panthers finally replaced his talent by selecting Moore.

The Panthers also selected the fastest guy in this year’s draft in LSU cornerback Donte Jackson. Not only is he fast, but he has a knack for the football. Him and third-round pick Rashan Gaulden, a former Tennessee corner, will add depth to an already strong defense.

Honorable mention winners—Denver Broncos, Chicago Bears and Green Bay Packers

LOSERS:

1. New Orleans Saints

The Saints made the most questionable pick of the entire draft with their fourth-round selection of Florida State offensive tackle Rick Leonard. He might turn out to be a good player for them, but selecting him as the 426th best player was a mistake. Leonard was not projected to get drafted in many mock drafts.

Not to mention, the Saints gave up their first-round pick of next year to move up 13 spots to pick up UTSA defensive end Marcus Davenporte, who is a work in progress still. When a team moves up that much, they usually get a player that is for sure going to succeed.

With the 14th selection, Lamar Jackson was still on the board. That might have been a safer pick, knowing that quarterback Drew Brees is already 39 years old. Imagine the future of Jackson with the duo of running backs Alvin Kamara and Mark Ingram and wide receiver Michael Thomas. The Saints would have been scary on offense even after Brees.

2. Seattle Seahawks

The Seahawks used to have one of the most feared defenses in the league with the Legion of Boom. However, most of that defense is either gone or old and beat up now. Their defense is eroding quick and Seattle did little to nothing in this year’s draft to improve on that side of the ball.

With their fifth-round pick, Seattle traded up to get a punter. The most useless position in the game was picked while a number of good players were still left on the board.

The Seahawks are falling apart as a team and their draft was below par.

3. Cincinnati Bengals

First-round picks are the most valuable possession a team can have. With the Bengals first-round pick, they selected Ohio State center Billy Price, who tore his pectoral muscle at the combine. Even when Price is healthy and ready to go, he will be protecting Andy Dalton, who is a quarterback not many believe in.

Plus, Price’s knocks are pretty big—he has bad footwork and has a lot of mechanical breakdowns.

Lamar Jackson could and probably will be better than Dalton some day in the AFC North.

The Bengals went heavy on defense, but they should have balanced out their picks with some offensive players. Last season, Cincinnati was dead last in total offense and bottom six in both total rushing and passing yards.

HONORABLE MENTION LOSERS—Oakland Raiders, Pittsburgh and Los Angeles Rams.

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