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The Prospector, December 4, 2018

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The Fall 2018 Prospector Staff wishes you good luck on finals week

By Adrian Broaddus

Ten straight semesters, three and a half years. Oh boy, what a ride it’s been.

The first day I stepped foot into The Prospector’s office, I was an eager kid with a folder containing my resume and application to turn in. It was my first day of freshman orientation. I knew that the second I enrolled at UTEP, I wanted to leave my mark on student publications and grow as a journalist. Today I sit, almost like a separate graduate, ready to leave and continue my career as a journalist. It was because of The Prospector—not class work, not a specific professor or even the university—that I was given hundreds upon hundreds of opportunities to grow in my craft.

Through countless UTEP athletics events, Chihuahuas games, Sun Bowl matchups and a bit of national coverage, I found my niche in sports reporting. It is what led to my coverage of high school football for Texas HS Football and Town Talk Sports El Paso last year that helped me boost up my experience for my eventual job at 600 ESPN El Paso.

During my freshman year, I was given an opportunity to cover the media events surrounding the NCAA Final Four (2016), when Villanova hit a game-winning 3-pointer to beat North Carolina 77-74 in one of the more spectacular Final Four finishes. That springboarded an opportunity this past year in March to cover the Final Four again, but this time alongside two sports reporters (Jeremy Carrano and Mikey Flores) at The Prospector and when I was more seasoned reporters (Jeremy Carrano and Mikey Flores) at The Prospector and when I was more seasoned.

There were intangibles that The Prospector gives to us, such as a first-hand glimpse on what it means to act and practice as a journalist, with real-time deadlines, managing a staff and putting together weekly papers. It is perfect for anyone that truly wants to spend time working toward being a journalist.

But there are some downsides that cannot go unnoticed. When I started at The Prospector, our weekly print publication was thick, filled with content and was an average of 12 pages per issue. Due to budget cuts, we were forced to cut down our size and limit our page count, which really limits how much content we include in our paper. This past summer was the first time we didn’t print.

This isn’t intended to be a grim goodbye because the good outweighed the bad by a long-shot. Our staff poured their hearts out semester by semester to get the most out of our publication. I gave everything I had to this publication and in turn, was granted success after hard work, won collegiate awards, earned notoriety, received great friendships and worked to leave my staple here.

So for my Prospector family, my special thanks to everyone I ever encountered at the office and spent time with. More specifically, thank you to Javier and Michaela for taking a chance on me and hiring me. I’ll always cherish the debates I had with Javier, who will go on to be a great professor someday and I’ll never forget all the productive work weeks I had with Michaela. She is currently working for the Salem Statesman and will have an incredible journalistic career.

My two advisors, Kathy and Vero, meant more to me than they will ever know. Kathy will forever remain a legend at UTEP for pioneering work in the communications department and will have a special place in my heart for how much she pushed me to do better. Vero took over for Kathy in the summer and juggled being the head of the department, our advisor and ran the advertising department without losing her head, which was amazing. Marcy Luna and Isabel Castillo helped us immensely in our front office and I can’t thank them enough for their support and kindness toward me.

I was extremely proud of the sports department at The Prospector during my time. Working alongside journalists like Gaby Velasquez, Jeremy Carranco, Jason Green, Mikey Flores, Curly Mendez, Angie Touris and Isaiah Ramirez was a blessing. Our spring staff comprised of Jeremy, Gaby, Mikey, Curly, Isaiah and myself might be one of the best sports departments at the student media publications in years. Gaby put out some of the best sports photography this city’s seen, while Curly kept everything intact in the sports department as acting editor since the summer. I’m excited that Isaiah will be succeeding us next semester and I know he will do a great job with the editorial spot.

My thanks to the past editors that helped see SPORTS GUY on page 5.

Submit a letter to the editor! Letters will be edited for clarity and brevity. Letters over 250 words are subject to editing to fit available space. Please include full name, street address and telephone number and e-mail address, plus major, classification and/or title if applicable. Address and phone number will be used for verification only. Write to 105 E. Union, theprospector1@gmail.com, call 747-7477 or fax 747-8031.

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Gaby Velasquez/The Prospector

By Javier Cortez
The Prospector

Working at a college newspaper can suck. The hours are long, the deadlines are short and the pay is almost non-existent. I would not describe The Prospector—a place I have worked on and off for five years—as a fun job. But I would recommend it to any aspiring journalist. You learn how to hold yourself accountable, assume responsibilities that you never had before and navigate the complexities of doing good journalism. It’s a life-changing experience if you take in all it has to offer.

Now that I’m done, I think about all the people that left a lasting impression on me.

For starters, the current 2018 Fall staff. This semester has not been easy. There were so many changes and difficulties that started months before the semester even began. Thank you to those who stuck around, committed and made an effort to grow as journalists.

Adrian Broaddus—long-time co-worker. In 2015, I was in dire need of a sports writer and had no encouraging prospects. Then you came in as a fresh-faced teenager, eager to learn and ready to work. You bailed me out. In 2018, after unfortunate staff changes, you stepped up and helped me remanage the paper. You bailed me out again. Thank you for being reasonable, fun to work with and encouraging to me when I came back.

Veronica Gonzalez—Director of Student Media and Publications. I’m glad I had you as my boss for my last semester as an undergard. Granted, that was not my initial feeling when I came back, but I am happy it turned out the way it did. The Prospector is in good hands with you at the helm. Thank you for staying positive when I was negative. Thank you for showing patience when I was at my wit’s end. And thank you for being open-minded, knowing how stubborn I can be.

Jasmine Aguilera—my first editor-in-chief. I can only imagine how annoying I was as a know it all 19-year-old sports writer when I first joined the paper. I would argue with you, assume I knew what I was talking about (even though I didn’t), and you would still sit down and go over my stories with me. You are, still to this day, the best editor I ever had at The Prospector. Thank you for always being willing to work with me.

Edwin Delgado—my first sports editor. You hired me even though I had virtually no work experience, zero clips, and little to no understanding of what the job entailed. You might not have known all of that, but my resume had little to offer. You threw me right into the fire and let me write as much as I wanted whenever I wanted. Thank you for giving me one of my first opportunities and the freedom to grow as a young sports writer.

Luis Gonzalez—former reporter/editor. No matter the position you held, you always were easy to work with. That may not seem like much, but having co-workers that take the stress away, rather compound it, is a rarity. Thank you for keeping me sane, having common sense and more importantly, being a true friend throughout the years.

Amanda Guillen—former reporter/editor. We came into the paper at the same time and I could not have been more wrong about you. I thought you were stuck up, shallow, and dumb. Now, thankful enough to still call you a friend, you have been nothing but loving, understanding, and incredibly enlightening. The responsibility you took on in the Summer of 2014 still amazes me to this day and I am glad I got to share that time with you. Thank you for always being kind to me when I could be the exact opposite.

Michaela Roman—my favorite photo editor. Hands down the most dependable person I have ever worked with at The Prospector. We covered more sports events together than I can count and not one time did you fail to produce quality work. Your work ethic, attention to detail and restlessness always made us want to do more. It felt odd not having you at the office this semester, but it only makes me more appreciative of when we did work together. Thank you for always wanting to do the work, it was an infectious attitude that made me a better journalist.

Kathy Flores—my former boss. I would constantly talk back to you, argue with your decisions and never waste an opportunity to complain. You could have fired me so many times, but you didn’t. You gave me the freedom to be myself and over the years letting me be, be me, was a lot to deal with. I left the paper three times, but you always left the door open for me to come back as if I never left. Thank you for letting me drive you crazy and thank you for never giving up on me when I was easy to give up on.

To those who are returning to The Prospector next semester, do not waste the opportunity you have. Work hard, learn from each other, and appreciate the time you have. You will never get it back.

Javier Cortez may NOT be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com.
Graduating
Class of
2018

Congratulations!

May your future shine bright.
All the best wishes from
The Center for Accommodations and Support Services
The University of Texas at El Paso

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Was your degree worth it?

CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ, PRISCILLA GOMEZ, SERGIO MUÑOZ/ THE PROSPECTOR

FERNANDO MONROY
Senior industrial engineering major
“I believe that with everything there are classes you enjoy more than others and that is very helpful once you graduate so you know which path you want to continue on as a professional.”

CARLOS VIRAMONTES
Senior criminal justice major
“Yes, I do think so. It has helped me for my personal development on a personal level. It helped me learn a lot about the criminal justice system.”

KRISTINA TORRES
Senior nursing major
“Yes, because there will always be nursing jobs in the future and there is always a need for nurses, especially right now.”

BRANDON ORTIZ
Senior electrical engineering major
“Yes, of course. It’s hard. I learned a lot of stuff from my professors and it made me a better engineer.”

ADRIANA CHAVEZ DE LA ROSA
Senior political science major
“Definitely, studying political science is worth it because I would like to be a college professor one day and I believe that in order to make an impact it starts by educating people.”

STUDENT RECREATION CENTER
DECEMBER HOURS

INTERSESSION HOURS / RACQUETBALL COURTS CLOSED

INTERSESSION HOURS / RACQUETBALL COURTS CLOSED

SRC CLOSED FOR WINTER MAINTENANCE

SRC CLOSED

Happy Holidays from the Recreational Sports Department

INTERSESSION OPERATIONAL HOURS WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 2ND, 2019.
Tips for college students pursuing a career in journalism

BY JAVIER CORTEZ
The Prospector

Things You Have To Come To Grips With

You are going to get paid like shit. Depending on what subset of the industry you go into, whether it be broadcast, print or multimedia, entry-level jobs do not pay well. If you can't accept the fact that you will struggle financially, this is not the industry for you. If you think a career in journalism equates to monetary success, then God bless your sweet naive soul.

Prepare for the worst. Depending on where you start, job security is not always high. At print publications, transitioning to online based publications, there is no job security. You can expect to be laid off, especially if you do not offer something valuable. This might sound pessimistic, but you should not consider yourself safe at any time.

Do not expect any pats on the back or congratulatory messages from anyone. Journalism at its core is a public service. People who serve others do not receive anything now. You can't just be a writer, a photographer, videographer or TV reporter.

The demands of a journalist today are somewhat ridiculous, but it's the reality of the situation. Hopefully, your journalism program or J-School provides a well-rounded education, giving you the tools to become a successful modern journalist.

The more skilled and well rounded you are, the better your chances are at landing and keeping a job. If you have a solid foundation in one type of storytelling medium, with other ancillary skill sets, you will make it.

Prioritize Your Time In College Correctly

You should not disregard the benefits of boasting a good GPA., but your main focus in college should not revolve around school work. You should take all that you can learn from your core and major classes while gaining practical work experience.

Create contacts and find work in and around your university/city that relates to the field. When it comes time to apply for out-of-town internships or post-grad jobs, your work experience is the be all end all.

Your resume better have something worthwhile attached to it. Your 3.8 GPA does not mean anything if you don't have clips that show your worth. Almost as important, are your references. And those references better be related to the field. That letter of recommendation from your Jazz history professor is not going to cut it.

Tread Lightly On Grad School

The pros of grad school outweigh the cons. You do not need a master's degree to work in the industry. Do not let anyone tell you otherwise. Once again, this goes back to skill set and work experience. If you are well rounded and have the clips, you will be fine.

If you would like to teach or acquire a more refined skill set, that's a different story, you need that degree.

But going further into debt for a degree you do not need is not the way to go. If you don't have practical reasons for getting a master's degree, you are wasting your time.

Ideals You Will Have To Concede

Click-bait headlines, superficial storylines, SEO, and web traffic should not be an aspect of journalists' work. But they are.

Journalism is not entertainment, but sadly, that is where the industry is going. If you can reconcile that depressing shit, more power to you.

Javier Cortez may NOT be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com.
Homelessness a prevalent issue among college students

BY ANDREA VALDEZ-RIVAS

The average college student worries about deadlines, exams, projects and all that comes along with being a student.

Many students at UTEP can maintain their standards in school on account of the privilege of living with family, roommates or a stable place to live throughout their seemingly endless college days.

But there is a small population of college students who, despite experiencing the same rigors of school as their peers, face an incessant worry: homelessness.

Unlike the general homeless population, it’s not easy to distinguish homeless college students from their classmates. Some bounce around from friend-to-friend to stay at their place for the night, while many are forced to live out of their cars. Some find refuge at shelters or motels. But when there’s no space in shelters or not enough money for both food and a motel room, homeless students have no choice but to hit the streets and survive on their own with whatever they have.

This reality is gaining more attention due to the findings of a study called “Still Hungry and Homeless in College” by Wisconsin HOPE Lab founder Sarah Goldrick-Rab and four other co-authors.

The study was HOPE Lab’s third national survey. The previous two surveys focused on community colleges, while the latest survey studied on 43,000 students at 66 institutions in 20 states and the District of Columbia. The study emphasized the prevalence of food and housing insecurity among college students. The results of the survey showed that 36 percent of university students were food insecure 30 days prior to participating in the survey and for community college students, it was 42 percent.

Rescue Mission of El Paso takes in 15,000 to 25,000 people every year, but not all those people are from the Sun City. Of the people who are welcomed by the shelter, four percent of them are students.

Matt Luna, an Alabama native, was one of those students who comprised the four percent. He recalls the days in recent years when he didn’t have an assured place to stay for the night and struggled to keep up in school.

“When I first started going to Rio Grande (El Paso Community College, or EPCC), I was either sleeping at a friend’s house or renting a motel,” said the 30-year-old staff member at Rescue Mission of El Paso and EPCC student. Luna lives and works at the shelter.

After a series of momentous life decisions and instability, Luna’s circumstances eventually led to homelessness. Luna became chronically homeless at 27, causing him to drop out of school. He has worked to get back on his feet, getting himself off of drugs and alcohol.

“I was heavily involved with gangs and doing drugs and doing all that,” Luna said. “And then I became an alcoholic and I was an alcoholic for like three years, and I was homeless living on the street.”

Luna resorted to drinking when the stress of his bills, especially for college, built up. He remembers losing hope of attending school because he did not have enough money to pay for tuition. But during the time that he was enrolled in school, Luna would take advantage of any opportunity he got and used it to study. It was difficult for Luna whenever he had to decide between going to work, so he could feed himself or go to school. More than once, Luna preferred to sustain himself and had to make sacrifices in order to survive. Those sacrifices included missing class.

Eventually, homelessness was what caused Luna to drop out. Luna made the decision to stop drinking and got sober. To avoid picking up the habit again, he resorted to Rescue Mission of El Paso, which he now depends on for his source of income and a stable place to stay. With the support of the shelter, Luna was able to return to EPCC.

“Now that I’m kind of steady here (Rescue Mission of El Paso), I pass the class, it brings up my GPA a little bit,” Luna said. “And this is the last class I have to pay for before I get financial aid.”

El Paso Community College campuses do not offer a special housing support for students in homeless circumstances, except the Valle Verde campus, where last year EPCCS’s Student Government Association began running a food pantry to all students that are food insecure. However, the community college offers to counsel students on the brink of a personal crisis.

As soon as Luna earns his associate degree in social work, he hopes to transfer to UTEP.

At the public university level, there are more sophisticated initiatives aimed to help homeless students. UTEP’s Foster Homeless Adopted Resources (FHAR) program aims to connect foster, homeless and adopted students with resources to help them advance through their college career.

According to UTEP Communications, anywhere from 80 to 120 students enter the program each semester. The program alleviates homeless students or students on the brink of homelessness with necessities, including hygiene and household supplies, a food pantry, bus passes, access to housing—as FHAR has a partnership with UTEP Housing and Residence Life—and centrally, access to education.

Director of the FHAR program, Pat Caro, told UTEP Communications earlier this year that if any UTEP undergraduate or graduate student “who finds themselves in a situation where they are homeless or adopted, or fostered and they need help, can come here (FHAR) and we can point them in the right direction and we’ll assist them.”

Students qualify for the FHAR program if they share housing as a cause of economic hardship or loss of housing.

For more information, call the FHAR hotline at 915-747-5290.

Andrea Valdez-Rivas may be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com.
Presidential search process continues ‘moving forward as scheduled’

BY BRIANNA CHAVEZ

The search process for UTEP’s next president to succeed Dr. Diana Natalicio is “moving forward as scheduled,” according to the University of Texas System.

In late August, the UT System announced a search advisory committee was put together to help the Board of Regents in selecting a new president, with the assistance of Russell Reynolds Associates, a global search firm.

Members of the committee include Board of Regents Vice Chairman Paul Foster, El Paso Mayor Dee Margo and SGA President Cristian Botello.

“The search is proceeding well, and the committee is reviewing potential candidates,” said Karen Adler, director of media relations for the UT System. Adler could not comment on where exactly the committee is in the process, or how long it will take before a list of candidates will be submitted to the Board of Regents. The search process is completely confidential, per UT System rules and regulations.

In May, President Natalicio announced she would be retiring after 30 years as UTEP president. President Natalicio told The Prospector during her announcement, “I will be happy to serve as long as I need to in order to make a smooth transition.”

In an interview with Borderzine, Natalicio said she would like to stay in place until her successor is named.

After Russell Reynolds conducts their search, their list of candidates is turned over to the committee. Once the committee conducts two rounds of interviews, they will then submit a list of three to four candidates to the Regents.

They are expected to submit those finalists by early 2019. However, it is unclear how long it will take the Board of Regents to select Natalicio’s successor.

Natalicio told Borderzine that while it is somewhat difficult to strike a balance in the process of selecting her successor, she believes the faculty members and one UTEP student, SGA President Cristian Botello, do offer a degree of balance.

“I really don’t know that for sure because what I agreed to do was to continue to serve as president until my successor is in place,” Natalicio told Borderzine. “And so that depends on the search process over which I have no control.”

The committee met for the first time in early October, where they held a town hall meeting on the UTEP campus to receive the community’s input on what they would like to see in the next president.

At the town hall, many community members expressed their concern as to how the committee was selected stating there is a lack of inclusiveness in the presidential search.

Natalicio told Borderzine that while it is somewhat difficult to strike a balance in the process of selecting her successor, she believes the faculty members and one UTEP student, SGA President Cristian Botello, do offer a degree of balance.

“Several of the faculty members on the committee are from El Paso and went to UTEP. They are all El Pasoans,” Natalicio said. “As long as members of the committee are actively participating, I think there’ll be a lively dialogue.”

The biggest question still remains unanswered. Who will become UTEP’s next president and take on the challenge of following in Dr. Natalicio’s footsteps?

“We’ll just have to wait and see how all that comes together,” Natalicio told Borderzine.

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Brianna Chavez may be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com.
A look back at the 2018 midterm election races

1. GOP Sen. Ted Cruz addresses his constituents at Franklin High School’s main gym. 2. Democratic challenger Beto O’Rourke and his wife Amy O’Rourke say their final goodbye after his watch party on Tuesday, Nov. 6 at Southwest University Park. 3. Veronica Escobar invites students to register to vote on the last day to register on Tuesday Oct. 9 at Leach Grove Park. 4. Congressman O’Rourke high fives his supporters as he walks to take the stage at the Magoffin Auditorium for his final rally before election day on Monday, Nov. 5. 5. Congressman O’Rourke and his supporters lock arms and march to the Tornillo Port of Entry on Sunday, June 17. 6. Veronica Escobar celebrates her election to the House of Representatives with her supporters at Later, Later in Downtown El Paso on Tuesday, Nov. 6. 7. A Beto O’Rourke supporter cries and stands in silence at the end of O’Rourke’s watch party on Tuesday, Nov. 6 at the Southwest University Park.
Congratulations, you wish success in your future endeavors.

Accounting and Information Systems Department

Congratulations and good luck to all of our graduates!

Class of 2018

Best wishes to UTEP’s 2018 graduating class.

The future belongs to you!
Congratulations to all the graduates of the Fall 2018. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

You ROCK!

- Geoscience Department

The Department of Geoscience would like to congratulate each of the graduates of Fall 2018. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- College of Science

Congratulations to the students of the College of Science. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- Undergraduate Fall 2018

College of Engineering

Congratulations to the students of the College of Engineering. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- Business College

Congratulations to the students of the Business College. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- Graduate College

Congratulations to the students of the Graduate College. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- Interdisciplinary Studies

Congratulations to the students of the Interdisciplinary Studies. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- Multidisciplinary Studies

Congratulations to the students of the Multidisciplinary Studies. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- College of Business Administration

Congratulations to the students of the College of Business Administration. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- College of Education

Congratulations to the students of the College of Education. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- College of Health Sciences

Congratulations to the students of the College of Health Sciences. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- College of Multidisciplinary Studies

Congratulations to the students of the College of Multidisciplinary Studies. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- College of Fine Arts

Congratulations to the students of the College of Fine Arts. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- Graduate College

Congratulations to the students of the Graduate College. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- Business Administration

Congratulations to the students of the Business Administration. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- Business Administration

Congratulations to the students of the Business Administration. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- College of Arts

Congratulations to the students of the College of Arts. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- College of Multidisciplinary Studies

Congratulations to the students of the College of Multidisciplinary Studies. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- Civil Engineering Department

Congratulations to the students of the Civil Engineering Department. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- College of Business Administration

Congratulations to the students of the College of Business Administration. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- College of Business Administration

Congratulations to the students of the College of Business Administration. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- Business Administration

Congratulations to the students of the Business Administration. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- College of Science

Congratulations to the students of the College of Science. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

- College of Education

Congratulations to the students of the College of Education. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.
Mom & Dad, thanks for supporting me and giving me my best shot.

Thank you for never giving up on me and pushing me even when I didn't want to go. I could have never done it without you guys.

To my family, thank you for all your support. To my little guy, this is all for you! I love you! YAY!

Chris

To my amazing family, thank you for everything. Also to my friends for the support through this time.

David Chau

Thank you to my family for being my backbone and my support system. Everyone who supported me throughout this journey. Love you.

Nadine

Thank you for all your support.

Very Bunch

Thank you to my family and friends for all the support. I Love you all.

Lauren Rivera

Thank you for all the support.

Quintero family

Gracias mamá por todo el apoyo y amor. Te quiero mucho.

Daisy

Para mi familia les dedico la presente con agradecimiento al apoyo brindado durante estos años de estudio. Mi cariño y admiración total a ustedes. Gracias por lograr hemos logrado!

- Adriana Mares

Thank you Yolanda for always believing in me and pushing me to do my best. To my whole family. Y gracias mamá no pidió nada más que esto. Te amo!

- Erin

Thank you for believing in me.

-Melanie Tarr

Thank you everyone who helped me. Family & friends.

Luis Oliveros

Made it!

Thanks to my family & friends Part 1 done!
Congratulations on graduating, Miners!
We encourage you to continue mining for knowledge, think in terms of your community in your future successes, and DO NOT be afraid to RE-CREATE what the world needs.
We look forward to hearing from your accomplishments!
-Recreational Sports Department

Congratulations Class of 2018!
May you keep reaching your goals and mining for knowledge in your life.

Housing and Residence Life

Go Miners!

-Student Engagement and Leadership Center

As this chapter of your UTEP journey comes to a close, be inspired by the many successes you have achieved and the dreams you have realized. May your future be filled with bold new beginnings and unlimited possibilities.

Class of 2018! - UTEP President's Office
Wishing all Fall 2018 UTEP graduates continued success and achievement. Thank you for letting us be a part of your educational journey, we look forward to being a part of your bright future as well.

Congratulations from the UTEP Division of Student Affairs

The University of Texas at El Paso

Class of 2018

Bachelor of Fine Arts
Danielle Andrea Aguilar
Silvia Arce
Tiffany Amber Becerra
Luis Enrique Chavez
Julian Aaron Dieguez
Dina Paulette Edens-Perras
Katherine L. Harding
Hiram Omar Jarquin
Arline Olaire Loyola
Paola Estef Anya Banon
Lauren R. Medina
Christina R. Miles
Kathryn Nicole Mullins
Victoria Amanda Navarro
Suzette Palma
Jessica Perez
Karla Sofia Perez Lopez
Cindy Lynn Phin
Austin Chase Solorzano
Fabian Uribe
Bernice Vare

Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies
Jesus A. Acosta
Daniel Arturo Alvarez
Melissa Denise Antuna
Diego Arias
Mariano Armendariz
Jacobian Astete
Judith Aviles
Carlos J. Barragan
Juan Ricardo Barragan
Maria E. Becerra
Jaimie Becerra Gomez
Thais Brandon-Beck
Amy Lisa Billstone
Deel Lynne Blair
Cornelius D. Brown
Stephanie Gayle Cabrera
Mireya Cardoso
Gabriel Carreno
Francisco Casaneda
Adriana Casanova Davila
Victoria C. Chacon
Yanit Chavira
Jazrita Calene Chavira
John Francis Connell
Veronica De Lara
Robert Richard DelBrios
Sara Delgado
Karla Adriana Delgado
Jorge Alberto Duran
Tina J. Enriguez
Esmirnada Escovedo
David Alejandro Flores
Toni Gabrielle Fodor
Carlos Rodolfo Garcia
Hector Alejandro Garcia
Marylou Garcia
Samantha Garcia
Veronica Garcia
David Kirby Gillette
Eduardo Gonzalez
Nora Gonzales
Andrea Guerra
Nathan A. Gby
Adam A. Hernandez
Navdeep Hira
Kris Krul K. Huitten
Baily Ann Hoel
Eric Stephen Hoog
Alex Michael Jeancharles
Terry Junis
Pheva Camille Kivrin
Same Marie Landry
Cynthia Virginia Lopez
David Lucero
Patricia Annette Madison
Amanda Gabriella Magana
Patty Elizabeth Martinez
Alexis Casanova Mason
Maegan Nicholas Mokey
Silvia Melcher
Allen Hartog Mirza
Bianca Yolanda Moncada
Jean Andre Ustis Moore
Destiny Danielle Morales Orellaga
Adriana Moreno
Anaceli Bernadette Moreno
Rafael A. Nieto
Amanda Pauline Nyser
Alejandro Jimenez Ojeda
Brenda Lisa Olivas
Dominique Alcoser Olivas
Charles Edward Ormos-Diaz
Michael Pacheco
Noel J. Pando
Stephen White Paterson
Kyle David Patek
Edgar Pena
Antonio Perez
Jacques Rempel
Scott Joel Robason
Oscar Aron Rodriguez
Michael Rodriguez
Erik Saldivar III
Alexis Lavi Santiago
Michael Joseph Savorino
John F. Kennedy Schade
Robert Sharp
Juan Fernando Silvano Santos
Shane Michael Anthony Monahan
Sara Mary Tjiootho
Urala Valesca Da Cunha
Armando Vasquez Jr.
Kristy Lagh Ama Vidakovitch
Charmay Toy Williams
Eric Corrine Wilson

Bachelor of Music
Justin M. Anderson
Derek A. Andrade
Nathan A. Bly
Enrico Montoya
Valeria Josephine Parada
Karla Estefania Prieto
Marco Ruiz
Amanda D. Toney
Anthony Yingyong

Bachelor of Science
Luisa Andrea Alonso Aguilera
Amir Amanda Alvarado
Gabrielle Bianca Campos
Sara Judith Chaparro Rubcouch
Adina Renee Corral
Jeanette Diaz
Emilia Dominguez
Juan Carlos Eternes
Samantha Garcia
Samantha Garrett
Alicia Fuentes
Adriana Leyva
Alessa Valeria Murillo
Diana O Donnell
Jessica Perez
Christine Elizas
Eduardo Alonso Rangel
Dominique Yvonne Salatana
Micah Jomay Smith
Jordan Lee Soto
Oscar Alberto Torres

Bachelor of Arts
Kylli S. Lumbar
Shawny Zane Morgan
Carmen Paige Webster

Bachelor of Science
Christina R. Adams
Miguel Gabriel Aguirre III
Jessica Aguirre
Melissa Vettas Aguirre
Blanca Isabel Alati
Daughter of Alvare Aguirre
Julio Cesar Armenta-Guzman
Ray Arizmendi
Monica Alexandra Aroyo
Arun Avila
Sandra Maribel Babenco
Laura Claire Barnes
Alexandra Beard
Elia Kathi Beaven
Rene Guadalupe Beltran-Barrera
Michael Abraham Bungardi
Juan Carlos Duran Calderon
Alexandra Carranza
Juan P. Canales
Angel Antonio Cardo
Cassandra Maris Carrasco
Michael Anthony Carrasco
Noel Carvillo
Blanca Rosa Castillo
Jennifer Castleman
Jose Alfredo Castro Castro
Angela Ines Chen
Marcie Edge Circus
Andrea Ericus
Joseph Edgardo
Kevin Michael Cheskas
Courtney E. Chisholm
Noel R. Civita
Stephanie Corral
Jos Higuera Crovato
Adrian Cosio
Paulino Carlos Covarrubias
Danniell Jamal Davis Jr.
Matt Tod Dudley
Kevin Alonso Duque
Leslie Alexandra Duran
Melissa Anna Dunn
Alexandro Esteban Espinosa-Sandy
Evangelina Jude Espinoza
Stephanie Estrada
Juan Carlos Eternes
Stephanie Falcon
Elisa Elena Garcia
Lauren Ashley Flores
Mihai Flores
Joseph N. Frenze
Katy Lynne Gabalis
Luis F. Galindo
Manuela Gallegos
Alejandro Alfredo Garcia
Gabrielle Elizabeth Garcia
Isamar Garcia
Gustavo V. Garza
Irma F. Garibay
Michael Ray Garcia Jr.
Ashley Gomez
Fernando Gomez
Jocelyn Gomez
Jose Gabriel Gomez
Libby Josephine Gonzalez
Sandra V. Guillard
Cynthia Gutierrez
Jessica Gutierrez

Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies
Kimberly L. Alvarez
Iris Monique Andrade
Ruthа Tania
Crystal A. Barajas
Stacy Consuelo Cabrals
Andrew Sanchez
Laura Carlsbad
Michael J. Sandoval
Kari Alejandra Santillan
Chris Arely Santos
Carlos Adrian Saucedo
S Chipetaica Seattle Jr.
Jessica Guadalupe Suihata
Irene Sullivan
Zeitz Ynez Tapias
Jennico Anielo Tovar
Jaqeline Lauren Torres
Evelyn A. Tovache
Nancy Jean Turca
Leslie Ann Urcueta
Kenen Adrian Valdiviez

Bachelor of Arts
Karen Sofiya Vello
Luis Fernando Vasquez
Andrea Alicia Vega
Felix Velasquez
Francisco Javier Velaz Jr.
Jennifer Lynn Vickers
Shawn Bruce Vreeder
Dona Ruth Ysells

College of Education

Bachelor of Arts
Yazmyn A. Aguilar
Amber B. Alzate
Christopher Rene Ambriz
Vanessa Alejandro
Mary Christine Conterras
Lauren Shauna Fenebock
Ryan J. Giampiero
April Gonzalez
Valeria Gonzalez
Anna Karen Guzman
Melanie Lynette Hegel
Priscilla Marie Luevanos
Slacy N. Lujan
Alicia Mendez
Sofia Columbus Montano
Aralay Torres
Delia Beatriz Navarro
Alex Canton Lopez
Angela Mora
Jonathan Alfredo Prieto
Juan R. Ramirez Jr.
Paulino Ramirez
Jesus Ramos
Ashley Nicole Rauison
Piera Liliana Renteria
Tasha R. Rodriguez
Christina R. Sean
Angelika Laura Tapia
Dareen Alvo
Kathy A. Townsend
Andrea N. Valenzuela
Mara Axel Sambil
Elizabeth Vilabia
Gabrielle Sophia Williams

Bachelor of Science
Luis Antonio Alonso Aguilera
Angel Amanda Alvarado
Gabrielle Bianca Campos
Sara Judith Chaparro Rubcouch
Adina Renee Corral
Jeanette Diaz
Emilia Dominguez
Juan Carlos Eternes
Samantha Garcia
Samantha Garrett
Alicia Fuentes
Adriana Leyva
Alessa Valeria Murillo
Diana O Donnell
Jessica Perez
Christine Elizas
Eduardo Alonso Rangel
Dominique Yvonne Salatana
Micah Jomay Smith
Jordan Lee Soto
Oscar Alberto Torres

Bachelor of Business Administration
Alyse Kristin Acosta
Andrea Aguila
Katherine Aleman Aguilar Cabrall
Gustavo Aguilera Jr.
Eliana Aguirre
Amir Ali Alsaifeh
Jorge Alonso
Marcelo Giorgi Alonzo
Abdulrah Faisal Atalhrif
Ivan A. Alvarez
Maria Magdalena Alvarez
Karri Veronica Amatorii
Miguel Angel Anaya
Michael R. Antisdel
Christian Brasheux Anysio
Jaimie Avila
Jose Adrian Arias
Silvio Aaron Arias
Edmundo Alfonso Armandez
Maria Jose Armandez
Maryam Salwa Aued Ponce
Carlos Arenal
Melissa Ann Avelia
Juan Francisco Avila Jr.
Aldo Ayala
Luis Fernando Baca
Joshua M. Baer
Diego Balderrama
Kimberly Alexis Barbera
Crystal Alexis Barberena
Dominique Barberio
Cristian Hael Barron Mor
Alondra Baylon
Ileana Biery
Monica Martha Benabente
Ada Favor Benjamin
Emmanuel Bermudez
Directo Antonio Betancourt
Vivian Rachael Blanco
Tyler Lyle Boyle
Sani Kriayni Buckingham
Tom Gallabone
Rebecca Cardenas
Gerald Cardenas Peruela
Melanie Cardona
Carlos A. Caro
Cassandra D. Carrasco
Joseylen Carrillo
Mauricio Jesus Castaneda
Mayra Michelle Castro
Lilia Cristina Castrejon
Dorrie Castro
Andrast Castro Rodriguez
Alondra Maria Cervantes
Caitlin Christine Cervantes
Diego A. Cesena
Jennifer Chacon
Nefertari Chawaya
Jazmin A. Chavez
Raul Chaves Jr.
Maria Lucia Cintron Chaves
Jesus Contreras Jr.
Joseylin Contreras
Sandra Isabel Contreras
Elizabeth P. Conwell

Congratulations to our SGA members who form part of UTEP’s Class of 2018.
We wish you all the best in your upcoming journey.
Rocio Fierro-Perez, Tony Perez, Julia Gallegos, Evelyn R. Ruiz and Grisell Rodriguez

The University of Texas at El Paso
Office of the Provost

Congratulations to all 2018 UTEP graduates who have completed their degree programs.

Wishing you all the best in your future endeavors.
The Office of the Provost
Congratulations on your recent graduation! This educational achievement is a significant milestone in your life and is highly commendable.

As you consider your options following your graduation, consider pursing graduate studies at UTEP.

- THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
Edens-Perlasca was awarded a Templeton Endowment due to her outstanding participation in the art department and was able to work on her exhibition project for a whole year, which was a pleasure for her as most school assignments only allow students a few weeks to complete them.

"That project took me a year and it’s been the most rewarding timeframe because at school you usually have anywhere from one to two months to complete something in ceramics because it is a long process," Edens-Perlasca said.

Edens-Perlasca has enjoyed how the UTEP art community and faculty truly care about the students as artists and always work towards improving all students’ education.

"(UTEP) has been my home, it’s like I’ve lived here for the last three years because I’ve been working so hard—I just love how everybody is so open and welcoming here," Edens-Perlasca said.

Edens-Perlasca plans to continue her education in fine arts and ceramics as a graduate student at New Mexico State University and is grateful she is prepared due to the constant encouragement by faculty members who pushed her to not only pursue her studies at UTEP but also explore professional practices outside of UTEP.

Edens-Perlasca hopes to one day have her own studio where she can continue creating art and develop into a stronger artist and teacher like those who guided her to receive her bachelor’s degree.

Catherine Ramirez may be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com.

Aguirre is thankful for her extended experience at UTEP and for the support of her parents knowing it wasn’t easy for them to hear she wanted to pursue a degree in art.

"They supported me anyways and throughout the years they have seen that there is a true value to the degree and art in general and I am so thankful for that," Aguirre said. "So many sacrifices have been made for me that I’ll never come close to paying back, but I can only hope that I can keep making them feel like backing me up was the right decision."

Students who major in fine arts are not always supported by family members or friends, but Aguirre has some advice for incoming art majors.

“Keep an open mind about art and its community. Don’t go into your major thinking that you have all the answers and no one can possibly change your artistic voice if you do that you won’t be able to reap the benefits of what our professors, staff, visiting artists and fellow artists provide,” Aguirre said. “When I started at UTEP I only wanted to be an illustrator but now I’ve come to realize I have a voice in many other mediums.”

With those artistic skills in other mediums and a bachelor’s degree, Aguirre plans to continue working as an artist to eventually advance her skills and education.

“I plan to keep building my portfolio so that I may eventually get into a Master’s program while working as a freelance artist,” Aguirre said.

Ten years from now Aguirre happily sees herself working every day as a business owner and independent artist and said her mom, dad, two sisters, two brothers and her dog, Pepé, are to thank for her bachelor’s degree that will open many doors for her in the future.

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A look at the best events El Paso had to offer in 2018

1. Children attempt to draw with a 200-pound block of chalk from Angel Cabrales’s Chalk it Out installation. 2. Café Tacvba performs at the Franklin Mountains Stage at day two of the Neon Desert Music Festival on Sunday, May 27. 3. Khalid performs for a sold-out crowd in the first of his two hometown shows at the Don Haskins Center. 4. Lil Wayne performs at the Rio Bravo Stage at day one of the Neon Desert Music Festival on Saturday, May 26. 5. Dennis DeYoung was the last headliner on Friday Oct. 5, at the KLAQ Downtown StreetFest, performing the music of STYX at the Bud Light stage. 6. Fall Out Boy plays at the Don Haskins Center for their MANIA tour on Tuesday, Sept. 25. 7. Gucci Mane performs at the Franklin Mountains stage at day two of the Neon Desert Music Festival on Sunday, May 27. 8. Attendees dress in traditional Mexican clothing and paint their face as catrinas to celebrate the Day of the Dead on Saturday, Nov. 3 in Downtown El Paso.
‘The House that Martha Built’ a final show by UTEP senior Katie Harding

By Claudia Flores

As finals week approaches, for UTEP student, Katie Harding, it means taking a closer step to graduation and the plans that come after.

As part of the Liberal Arts Honors Program, Harding is required to do an independent study for her last semester. Many students go with the traditional approach of writing a paper, but as a double major in communication studies and dance performance, Harding decided to take a more creative approach.

“Since I’m a dance major I thought ‘I have to do something dance related’ and I spoke with my mentor and he already had an idea for a project actually which is based on the life of his mentor Martha Hill when he went to Julliard,” Harding said.

“The House that Martha Built,” will be a 40-minute performance where Harding will talk about the dance history of some pieces created by Hill and dance some of those iconic pieces.

Harding, who previously interned with the American Dance Festival by helping with fundraising, event planning and administrative tasks hopes to get a job in an area that allows her to put both of her skills in practice.

“At the internship, in addition to all those tasks, I was able to take dance classes and meet a lot of people that performed, so I got to have a very multifaceted experience and also get a chance to really look into the industry and see if this is something I wanted to do,” Harding said.

Harding started dancing at the age of four after her mother put her in a dance class, since then, Harding developed a love and passion for performing arts that took her to perform at different musical productions during her high school years and at the UTEP Dinner Theater.

Even though the passion for dancing still remains with her, Harding said she decided to go for a double degree because of the security of having a consistent job.

“I never wanted to be one of those people who go to auditions in New York until I run out of money and have to move back home or something, but I can’t also let go of dance totally,” Harding said.

“Arts industry works out because it is a consistent job, there is a corporate side of it, but you still get to take classes, see performances be exposed to the arts, while also maintaining that job security that I have been looking for.”

For Harding, spending her college years at UTEP taught her to love dance in a different way that goes beyond the artistry of being on stage.

“College taught me how to love it in a way that it’s more than just studios or just the purpose of performing,” Harding said. “To me it is more enriching to have the history aspect of it and at our dance program we learned about anatomy, how to choreograph and how to do music, so you get a really well-rounded view of dance.”

As her time at UTEP is almost over, Harding said she really appreciates who she has become as a result of college and how her decision of staying at UTEP helped her to have a great appreciation for dance.

“When I came to college, I was nervous because all of my friends went to schools all over the country and I stayed at home, but at the same time if I hadn’t come here, I don’t know if I would’ve been a dance major,” Harding said.

“I am so grateful that I ended up here and got to do both degrees because it kind of built me and where I want to go with my career path because I feel confident going into the real world once I graduate.”

The show will take place on Dec. 10 and 11, at 7 p.m. in room A452 in the Fox Fine Arts. Admission is by donation.

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On Thursday, Dec. 6, the Hal Marcus Gallery will open its inaugural annual Latina Arte exhibition, the longest exhibition ever held at the gallery, featuring the artwork of several local Latina artists.

Hal Marcus, the gallery's owner, who has been a professional artist for 50 years, came up with the idea of Latina Arte within a day.

“We wanted to do something that we hadn’t done before and we wanted to do something that was relevant to the community,” Marcus said. “Latina Arte are all women and to go with the women’s movement, it’s very relevant.”

The exhibition will feature paintings and sculptures of nine different local artists, with different styles and themes in their artwork and backgrounds.

Carmen Navar is one of the artists and is a current UTEP student working on a degree in painting with a bachelor’s in design.

“For me, it was very interesting, the question that I was asked when I was interviewed was, ‘What does Latina mean?’ and I said it tied to the culture as if I am a Latina artist, but the word is beyond Latina. It’s a universal theme,” Navar said.

“I like to communicate with people through my paintings, I usually try to focus on the story behind each painting.”

- Isabel Olivares
artist and computer science major

“My themes have always been the female figure and the internal landscape, so I focus a lot on the eyes. What I learned at UTEP was what do you have to say in the 21st century and for me, it was how to bring the love and the femaleness into the 21st century,” she added.

Another artist is Isabel Olivares, a current computer science major that designs one of the university’s web pages.

“I like to communicate with people through my paintings, I usually try to focus on the story behind each painting. I like to connect with people through emotions, my paintings are part abstract, some part realism,” Olivares said.

Martha Arzabala is a retired design engineer and has been an artist since 2010. She is also currently preparing some paintings for other exhibitions outside of the city.

“You will see great paintings coming up pretty soon regarding the immigration issues and what’s going on politically right now, because we tend to put that expression into a painting or sculptures,” Arzabala said. “I think it’s the time for great art right now, because of the drama we have all around.”

Another artist is Chihuahuan native Teresa Fernández, who used to be a fashion designer and found her love for teaching and art when her daughters’ school asked her to teach a two-month course. She currently has her own studio called CreArte at 7815 Helen of Troy Dr.

“Now with this show, I am fusing my fashion design career into sculptures and dress sculptures, I call them Mis Damas, My Ladies,” Fernández said.

Fernández also did a one-piece clay figure for the show, experimenting with a variety of materials in the process.

The exhibition kicks off on Thursday, Dec. 6 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and will run from Dec. 6, 2018 to Feb. 28, 2019.

The gallery is located at 1308 N. Oregon St.

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Jim Senter reflects on his first year as UTEP's Athletic Director

BY DANIEL MENDEZ
The Prospector

When Jim Senter was announced as the new Director of Athletics at UTEP on Nov. 22, 2017, he knew what he was getting himself into, he had to rebuild a football program that had just gone winless and had a disappointing season with mid-season coaching changes.

But at his very first news conference the following week Senter introduced himself to the community and introduced his mantra: every person makes a difference.

What Senter didn't know was that by the end of the day, he would be tasked to fill another major coaching vacancy, this time in men’s basketball brought by the sudden postgame retirement of former UTEP basketball coach Tim Floyd.

Suddenly, Senter was tasked with filling two of the biggest coaching positions in athletics, men’s basketball and football. Senter hadn’t even officially started his position yet, still finishing his tenure at the Citadel, but he hired Dana Dimel as his football coach. Once basketball season ended he found someone to take over the program in Rodney Terry. He then went to make his third hire in women’s rifle coach Austin Litherland.

Senter knew it would be a tough task in his first year, due to poor attendance in athletic events. His first year at the helm involved a lot of trial and error.

“I think I’m still trying to learn and find out about how things work here,” Senter said. “Whether that is the price of ticketing or its game times, or is it the value of premiums to get somebody to come to the game? Or does it even matter if there’s a premium to get somebody to come to a game right?”

“So now I’m starting my second year and I’m starting to have a little bit more comfort in terms of what do I think works,” Senter said. “What do I want to do? What kind of changes might we make? What have I learned from my first 12 months on the job? It’s a very, very fluid dynamic and a very educational experience.”

Senter’s goal is to have intercollegiate athletics win and compete for conference championships. He has made that point abundantly clear after soccer and volleyball wrapped up. Head soccer coach Kevin Cross and volleyball Coach Molly Watts were let go after failing to have their team compete for conference championships.

“The mark on the wall is we’re going to compete for and win championships,” Senter said. “That’s the level we want to rise to. Now it’s my job as the athletic director and our administrative team is to give our coaches and student-athletes the tools it takes to do their job. I think in many instances, we’re giving many of our programs the tools and the resources to do their job. I expect them to maybe do it at a better level and a higher level than they’ve been getting it done.”

Senter did mention the coaching vacancies are still ongoing and will likely get rolling once the fall season of athletics officially wraps up because coaches he may have an interest in are still coaching their respective programs.

If competing for conference championships is not occurring he is looking into what ways he can improve athletic facilities. The improvement in facilities is evident with the start of the renovation of the Sun Bowl with lounge seating and an improved press box.

Senter acknowledges that due to lack of donor support in certain programs and flexibility with the athletic budget, Miner nation may not see those renovations they are yearning for just yet.

Senter has learned two things in his first year on the job. How passionate the fan base is and how the fans perspectives are on losing performances in football and basketball.

“I think our fan base has become somewhat apathetic because we haven’t been winning, Senter said. “It’s going to take a lot more energy and a lot more effort to try to get our folks invigorated to the point where they want to buy tickets, they want to be a donor and they want to come to games... There’s a certain level of apathy that is going to take them a gargantuan effort to get it jump started again and get people to get back on board and help us.”

To him, “every person makes a difference” doesn’t necessarily have to be a purchase of season tickets, a donation or even a social media post. It’s about coming out and supporting the student-athletes who don the orange and blue and if you happen to buy concessions, Senter views that as making a difference as well.

“Every person makes a difference” is not only a mantra for Senter but it is a way of life. “Every day you choose if you want to make a positive or negative difference, so why not choose to be a positive difference maker,” Senter said.

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Nik Needham: The embodiment of a UTEP Miner

BY ISAIAH RAMIREZ

Senior cornerback Nik Needham stepped foot on campus in 2014 coming from Buena Park, California in hopes of making an impact on a historically unsuccessful program. “Freshmen year was definitely a culture shock. Coming from California it’s very fast-paced, and it’s been a long road here at UTEP but I definitely enjoyed it,” Needham said.

Over a five-year span in which Needham was a Miner, the team had a cumulative record of 22-44. These past two seasons the Miners compiled only one win.

Even with all these lows, Needham’s mind was constantly geared towards being an unselfish team player and making the most out of his senior season. “I just embraced my senior season and planned on going all out for my teammates, and as a team, I saw we never gave up throughout the year and we fought till the very end,” Needham said.

The 2017 All-Conference USA Honorable Mention selection was a constant workhorse and reliable defensive playmaker.

Needham is the programs all-time leader in pass breakups (33). This season Needham recorded nine pass breakups for the second season in a row. “It was a big accomplishment to go down in UTEP history as the career pass breakup leader, but it’s due to my teammates as well and I wouldn’t be anything without them,” Needham said.

Highlights came in bunches for Needham over his five-year career at UTEP.

In 2017, Needham recorded a UTEP game-high record of five pass breakups in a loss against Western Kentucky, and during his freshman season in an overtime victory over rival New Mexico State he recorded seven tackles, one sack and one pass breakup. The standout corner also recorded a career-high nine tackles in the Miners five-overtime win over UTSA in 2016.

“Beating New Mexico State in overtime at their house was probably one of the biggest moments I remember and when we went five overtimes against UTSA,” Needham said.

“The Western Kentucky one would have been big to me if we won. The ones where we win those are the ones I count on.”

Now that the record-breaking cornerback’s career at UTEP is over the next step in his football journey is heading to the NFL. Needham is scheduled to participate in NFL pro day, where scouts will come to the Sun Bowl and watch the corner run drills and display why he deserves to be drafted.

“Pro day is definitely in my plans and in two weeks I’m going to be headed home and get right to work,” Needham said.

Various draft projection websites have Needham going in the third to fifth round while ranking in the top 25 of the cornerback class. With this continued respect for his game, Needham acknowledges there is always important layers and areas to enhance going into the league.

“You can never be fast enough and I know that’s a big key that they look for in the NFL and still learn more about the game of football as well.”

Looking back on his storied career at UTEP, Needham is appreciative of not only the time spent on the field but off the field as well.

“I’ve appreciated my time here in El Paso and I’ve made a lot of good friends and brothers. My time here is something I’ll remember for the rest of my life.”

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ACCURACY WATCH
The Prospector’s committed to the accuracy. If you think we have made an error of fact, e-mail the editor at theprospector1@gmail.com.
A new era of UTEP athletics brings excitement for the future of Miner Nation

1. Freshman guard Nigel Hawkins dunks the ball after a steal against the Northwestern State Demons. 2. Junior running back Quardaiz Wadley and graduate student linebacker A.J. Hotchkins celebrate as they score a touchdown. 3. Dana Dimel finished his first season as head coach winning one game against Rice. 4. The Miners return to an old tradition walking out the Mine Shaft pregame. 5. Jim Senter closely watches women’s basketball as they play against NMSU in the Battle of I-10. 6. The Miners win their first D-I game of the season with head coach Rodney Terry against the Northwestern State Demons.
Number 12's legacy will not be defined by career roadblock

BY DANIEL MENDEZ
The Prospector

When senior quarterback Ryan Metz started the season for the Miners, he was hoping to write a storybook ending to his UTEP career. Unfortunately, as in the game of football, you are always one play away from having it all end for you.

“My journey as a Miner I mean, it’s been quite the journey, a long journey, to say the least. I’ve been here five and a half, almost six years, and it’s just been so memorable,” Metz said. “There’s a lot of memories that I’ll have, not just for the next 10 years but for the rest of my life and it’s just been a great honor to be able to wear the orange and blue.”

This season against Louisiana Tech, what looked like a simple quarterback run the Miners ran all season turned into Metz’s last ever possession for the Miners. The fifth-year senior suffered his fifth concussion, dating back to his Andress High School football days. This would be the worst one yet as Metz would retire from intercollegiate athletics.

“I feel even though I stepped away from playing quarterback at the college level I still have aspirations to play in the NFL,” Metz said. “I see it as I don’t think there’s going to be a whole lot of teams that are gonna look at me because of my history with concussions, but why not give it a shot. Never know what can happen, never know what doors may open and I’m going to take that opportunity to do that on pro day.”

If Metz doesn’t get the attention of NFL scouts, he has plans lined up to join the UTEP football staff as a graduate assistant coach.

“He’s just been a positive part of what we’re doing,” said head coach Dana Dimel. “He’s been so supportive. He worked his tail off and been a leader since the very day that he got here and he’s meant so much to this program. He’s got all the intangibles to be a really good coach moving forward.”

“Number 12’s debut has to rank as one of the more notable moments in program history—Metz came off the bench for his first taste of NCAA action as a redshirt freshman in 2015 and rallied UTEP to a come from behind win in overtime at New Mexico State, throwing two touchdowns in the victory.

During the season, Metz had a career night against North Texas. That night, Metz had a total of three touchdowns throwing a total of 313 yards, the first time ever since quarterback Jameill Showers did it in 2013.

“It’s huge, I mean especially being a hometown kid,” Metz said. “Having come to the games when I was little seeing Jordan Palmer, Trevor Vittatoe kind of light up the scoreboard and getting that opportunity to not necessarily wear the same uniform, uniforms kind of changed over the years but to get to be a Miner, that’s been such a such a great honor, one that I hope I made El Paso proud.”

Metz finished his career with 26 touchdowns, ranking him ninth all-time in program history, and 22 interceptions. He threw 3,488 yards and finished his career with four rushing touchdowns.