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The 2019 Prospector staff wishes you good luck on finals

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Vania Castillo strides into the future

BY VALERIA OLIVARES

The Prospector

UTEP student Vania Castillo begins to blur the line between her college career and her future as a journalist as she takes part in the VICE Fellowship for Collegiate Reporting. The fellowship was created in early January of the present year.

After VICE asked journalism students to pitch story ideas about mental health, Castillo submitted a story idea about the mental health of undocumented activists.

“Activists, as it is, already struggle with a lot of problems with mental health because of lack of care and just the stress that they're under,” Castillo said. “But adding on to that, the fact that these activists are undocumented, just adds a whole other level of stress.”

Castillo and three other students were selected for the fellowship’s inaugural semester. Four hundred pitches were sent from more than 200 universities across the U.S., according to a public service announcement by VICE.

As Castillo learns about the way that undocumented activists balance their work with their own private lives and the toll that this takes on their mental health, she will be mentored by VICE editor Ankitaa Rao in order to publish her story by the end of May.

Former SGA senator at large, film director and actor within UTEP’s theatre department, intern at both KVIA and KTSM, in which she later got hired to work in production, editing and reporting, Castillo sought out after challenges throughout her college career.

The thing that kept her going was her passion for storytelling.

“I was just really interested in telling people’s stories, especially here in the border,” Castillo said. “I think there’s a very unique perspective on the world and just people in general… I don’t know, I just really like going out and meeting different people and hearing what they have to say.”

Castillo believes that opening herself and others to different stories can help her grow as a person and, in turn, as a journalist.

As a double major in digital media production and multimedia journalism, Castillo’s dream is to combine her love for the two in order to create documentaries that will expose people to a world that is different from their own.

Being an El Paso local, Castillo is set on working on stories revolving around immigration, but is also interested in looking into other marginalized communities.

“I feel like it’s important to give a voice to these kinds of people,” Castillo said. “Especially living here in El Paso we see a very unique city with people from all different types of economic backgrounds… I think we’re lucky in that sense that we get to see all of this.”

As she becomes a first-generation college graduate, Castillo recognizes UTEP and its staff having a significant role in the opportunities that she has taken advantage of and the position in which she finds herself today.

“I don’t know where I would be without UTEP,” Castillo said.

Kim McKeen, an assistant professor at the department of theatre and dance, and Ramón Villa, a lecturer at the department of communication, are two particular professors who helped guide her.

“I think (Ramón Villa) really opened my eyes to filmmaking and just putting yourself out there,” Castillo said. “Kim McKeen has taught me to just observe the world and just to see the human interactions that we have. I would have never thought that theatre would impact the way I do journalism… I’m very thankful to her for that.”

Villa, who teaches video production and media scriptwriting courses at UTEP, recalls the times in which Castillo was a student in his classes.

“(Vania Castillo) always had a good intuition about how storytelling works,” Villa said. “She wasn’t afraid to get into some story elements that were challenging. That’s something I found in Vania… she was always willing to challenge herself in what she was going to do.”

Her work is also influenced by the electives that she was able to take through the years, such as the Chicano Studies courses that helped her learn about her background which she never learned about in the average history class or book.

As her time at UTEP as an undergraduate student comes to an end, just like almost every other soon-to-graduate student, Castillo is scared and excited for what the future holds.

“I’m terrified. I’m terrified,” Castillo said with a growing smile. “Leaving here is definitely going to be very bittersweet. I’ll definitely miss the university, but I think that I have definitely gained so many skills here.”

Valeria Olivares may be reached at theprospectordaily1@gmail.com
I was never good at headlines... adios, Prospy

When I started at The Prospector, I had no idea what I was getting into. I had no idea one day I would see my name in the news page with the title of “editor-in-chief.” All I knew is that if I wanted to build a portfolio and become a journalist, I had to step out of my comfort zone and get my foot in the door.

In the spring of 2017, I got my shot as a contributor and even after some of the stories I wrote never got published (which I totally get why), I was never discouraged. Later, it actually paid off. I became a reporter, then an editor of the entertainment section, then multimedia editor, to finally wrap up my college adventure by becoming editor-in-chief.

It’s incredible to look back at the struggles, the stress and all the things that pile up with school and my personal life.

This place became more than just a workplace; it became a second home.

I feel so much gratitude for those who hired me, starting off with former editor-in-chief Michaela Roman and former director Kathleen Flores, for giving me the opportunity to join this team. To the old guys, Rene, Old Christian, Adrian, thank you guys for your patience and sharing your knowledge along the way.

This place has given me more than just the chance to build a portfolio; it has given me the field experience to know what to expect in the professional field.

Since the very beginning, I can say I enjoyed every event I got to cover, from attending opening shows at the dinner theater, to politics, to writing food, restaurant, and coffee shop reviews, and seeing Luis Miguel on my birthday (I wrote a review, of course.) The Prospector gave me a chance to grow professionally and personally. It gave me the experience to lead a staff, manage things with professionalism even when things got muddy, learn to work with difficult people to make things work in the newsroom, among others.

For those of you who plan on becoming journalists, let me tell you that this is the place where you’ll put on task all the skills you learn in class on a daily basis. Even when we have class assignments, there’s nothing more satisfying than covering events and writing stories under pressure and deadlines.

During my time here, I received many awards at the state level for videos and stories about our border community. Most recently, two former editors and I were awarded a national honor with a second-place win in the College Media Business and Advertising Managers 2019 Awards. This type of recognition is something I would have never experienced if I had not joined The Prospector. So, to all of you student journalists, trust me when I tell you that this place is a platform to land internships, network with people in the local and national media, and hopefully land a job in the industry.

To my fellow editors who are graduating with me, you guys are the best! Thank you so much for keeping up with the madness of this semester. From drama in the newsroom, to staying until 2 a.m. after covering the Trump rally, to making production nights so chill (even when they weren’t), thank you so much for your help, patience and your friendship. I couldn’t have done it without you.

Catherine, I owe you a big one for stepping up to the plate when we needed a new editor last semester. Thank you so much for doing a great job and being a great support in the newsroom. I know that you’ll do great in grad school and whatever you do, you’ll nail it. I will truly miss you, girl!

Curly, dude, thank you so much for being my right hand this semester, for helping me plan issues and for making the drama way funner than what it was. I know that whether you go to Houston and work as a sports reporter, stay in podcasting or if you become a lawyer, you will do terrific at whatever you strive for. I will miss you a bunch, man!

Brianna, we met in the basic multimedia writing class and look at where we are right now! After struggling a lot to pass classes and stressing over procrastination, we finally made it, girl! Be sure that if you stay at KVIA or you go somewhere else, you have what it takes to achieve your goals and I know you will do fantastic! I will miss you a lot, Bri!

Christian and Ashley, I know you guys are not graduating, but this is a farewell, too, as you’ll be leaving the publication for bigger opportunities. I’m sure that whatever you do in your respective areas, you both will succeed gracefully. Thank you so much for joining me in this journey.

Verito, thank you so much for everything! I owe you a bunch of pretty paper for all those recommendation letters. Thank you for trusting me and believing in me to take over this position. Thank you for always having your office door open (literally and metaphorically) to all of us. You’re not a normal boss, you’re a cool boss, and I will miss you so much!

Tracy, thank you for keeping up with us. This semester was all about adjusting and I'm...
Thriving student Kaelin Walker was selected for the UTEP's Leadership Award for her devotion and commitment to the student community. Walker is a junior, double-majoring in women's and gender studies and dance, with a minor in legal reasoning.

To qualify for UTEP’s Leadership Award a student needs a GPA of 3.5 or higher, two letters of recommendation, must be a junior, senior or graduate student, must hold a leadership role for at least one year, and demonstrate an outstanding level of engagement in UTEP Edge. The recipient must also have participated in a minimum of two registered student organizations.

Walker has been a member of the University Honors Council and Desert Dance since her freshman year.

Walker competed in the homecoming pageant and won third place homecoming duchess which she considered her first involvement in Student Government Association (SGA).

“I feel like that was the first time I really felt school spirit and that’s when I knew I was proud to be a Miner because I was representing school in that way,” Walker said.

Walker was also recognized for her large participation in SGA.

During her homecoming reign, she proposed recognition for 100 years of women at UTEP with the idea of taking a photo in the form of a pick axe (inspired by the photo taken at orientation) of just UTEP women, with Dr. Natalicio present.

“This was a turning point for me as a student because I realized if I had an idea and I wanted to do something at UTEP, that no matter how big it was, it was definitely possible because the people at UTEP wanted students with good ideas,” Walker said.

She was then invited to work on a book, “100 Years of Women at UTEP,” published in 2017.

That same year, she ran for senator at large for SGA and was not elected, but in 2018 Walker eagerly ran again, this time victoriously. Walker recently ran for vice president of external affairs in April but came up short by 21 votes.

Walker, a student of color, an immigrant and a member of the LGBTQ community, is quite public about being part of SGA. She became the student representative for the UTEP Deserves Better Movement.

When Walker was first approached to apply for the Leadership Award by her academic advisor, she was not quite sure if she would qualify for the award.

“It was a big application and at first I thought ‘no, I don’t qualify for that,’ but after reading over the criteria I said, ‘wait a minute, I think I do qualify for it,’” Walker said.

Walker plans to graduate from UTEP with honors with a bachelor’s degree in women’s and gender studies and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance performance. After, Walker wishes to earn her master’s degree in women’s studies followed by law school.

“After law school, I want to do legislative writing, so bill writing for our government. It’s a really lofty dream of mine to become a member of congress,” Walker said.

At 22 years old, Walker is a future congress leader and activist amongst the UTEP community that has elicited the change she once hoped for, while accomplishing feats worth the recognition of UTEP’s Leadership Award.

Juan Corral may be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com
Three years ago, I transferred from Nicholls State University to the University of Texas at El Paso. I transferred looking for more opportunities as a student-athlete and academically. Without a doubt I can say that all of these wishes were fulfilled. I am very grateful for all the opportunities that have come my way while being in El Paso. As a student-athlete, I got the opportunity to compete against better schools, fly to games and I earned a spot to compete in the NCAA championships for doubles in New York. After a great first year at UTEP, I found myself suffering during games from back problems. I ended up getting surgery on my back at home (the Netherlands), which ended my career. However, this led to only more opportunities to come. As student-athletes we struggle with the lack of experience we have in the work field. We haven't had the time to take internships in our related work field and see if this is what we really want to do.

As a medical student-athlete, I took on the internship program with the marketing department at UTEP Athletics. Being able to gain experience in the office and everything surrounding game day was really enjoyable. This way I got to see what it is like from behind the scenes, rather than being on the scene.

As grateful as I was for getting professional experience as a student-athlete, I realized that I didn't have any experience related in my major field (advertising). This slightly worried me because as a foreign student I am going to take on an OPT, which allows a non-U.S. native to work for a year in their related field. When I checked my student email, I found one from the Prospector that had job openings for students with majors in communication and advertising. I knew about The Prospector when they wrote an article on me for Minero Magazine when I was still on the tennis team. I figured I should pass by the office and see if they are taking applications. I got really excited as I applied for Advertising Account Executive and this would complete my resume as I wrap up at UTEP.

I had an interview with Veronica, the director of UTEP Student Media and Publications. I thought we had a good interview but I still had my doubts about her hiring me. I had no sales experience whatsoever or any professional experience at all to back up that I would be a great Advertising Account Executive. When I got the email that they wanted to hire me, I couldn’t wait to start my first day! I loved being able to do real work independently and with a lot of freedom. I had to network and make appointments with business owners in order for them to work with The Prospector. It was a lot of fun and I am so grateful that Veronica gave me the opportunity to be great and trusted me enough to take on the position!

See you later, UTEP
Grateful for these moments

BY BRIANNA CHAVEZ
The Prospector

Exhausting, stressful, but exciting.
Those are the words I would use to describe my time at The Prospector.

I walked into the Student Media and Publications office during the summer of 2017, not knowing what I was getting myself into, but I knew if I wanted to become a better writer and a better journalist and become more involved on campus, I needed to start somewhere.

I knew, from The Prospector’s reputation, that it would be the perfect place to do so.

I was an entertainment contributor when I first started. My first story was an album review. I had no idea what I was doing. I felt so clueless, but that’s what is so great about The Prospector. You have the space to grow, and for that I will be forever grateful for.

I learned about deadlines and why they’re important (and the past editors know, I barely met them, or didn’t meet them at all).

I wrote stories that were never published (and now I know why).

I wasn’t the best writer, but The Prospector gave me all the tools I needed in order to get better.

I knew when I chose to major in multimedia journalism, the process would not be easy. My parents were a little shocked to hear me say that I was going to pursue a career that, to be honest, does not pay very well.

There were moments where I thought I wasn’t cut out for it. Moments where I thought I should have just changed my major. However, if it weren’t for the friendships and connections I made here, I don’t think I would be writing this column today.

Last year, our department went through several changes. We lost our amazing director Kathy Flores after she announced she would be retiring and we lost several seniors who had dedicated their collegiate experience to this office. It was a difficult transition. There were times where I felt we were barely hanging on. However, our department had people who wanted the paper to succeed despite all the changes being made—Javier Cortez, Adrian Broaddus, and of course, our wonderful Director Veronica Gonzalez.

My senior year has been the most demanding. Not only was I enrolled in school full time, I was working two other jobs on top of becoming copy editor, plus the challenges and struggles I was facing at home.

However, I don’t think I would have done it any other way. Even though I spent my final moments feeling like I should give up, stressed out, and exhausted, the one place I truly loved being was in the Student Media and Publications office. I covered amazing events and told important stories—President Trump’s rally, the selection of a new UTEP president, and the opportunity to speak to our current president, Dr. Diana Natalicio.

First off, I would like to thank Kathy Flores, our former director who helped me realize that I wanted to stay at The Prospector, take care of it and really commit to it during my senior year. Thank you to Michaela Roman, our former editor-in-chief. I learned so much from you during your time here. You inspired me to become a better writer and I’m so grateful that I get to call you my friend.

Thank you to Javier Cortez and Adrian Broaddus for being patient with me last year, even though I know you all didn’t believe in me.

Thank you to Tracy Roy, assistant director at The Prospector. You came to the department during a difficult time when lots of changes were happening. I’m so grateful that we’ve been able to work together. You’ve always given me guidance and pushed me to become a better writer and editor.

Thank you to Veronica Gonzalez. You’ve always believed in me and always told me that everything was going to be OK. You’ve been there for me during the most difficult times in my life. Thank you for helping me along the way and helping me get to the finish line.

To my coworkers (I would name them all, but you know who you are), thank you for allowing me to trust you. It’s great to work at a place where you can trust people. I’m grateful for the times we’ve spent the wild and LONG production nights every Monday. More importantly, I’m grateful for your friendship.

To Curly Mendez, thank you for having my back and telling me like it is. I know I can always count on you. To Gigi Flores, I can’t believe we made it. We’ve been together since the beginning when we took basic multimedia writing, and I couldn’t have imagined it any other way. Thank you for friendship and being with me every step of the way.

I would like to thank my family, especially my parents. It took them a while to come around to the idea that pursuing a degree in journalism would be worth it. They have always expressed to me how proud they are of me every time one of my stories got published, even the short ones. I love you mom and dad. Thank you for all the sacrifices you’ve made for me and the love you give me every day.

Lastly, I would like to thank UTEP. There was a moment in my life where I felt like staying in El Paso would set me back. Most of my friends were attending other universities across the country. For a moment I resented my parents because of that and other factors that went into play. As my senior year comes to an end, I couldn’t be more grateful to be able to call this university my second home. I love UTEP and I always will. I’ll miss coming to class every day and walking around the beautiful campus. This university will have a special place in my heart.

Thank you UTEP and, more importantly, thank you The Prospector.

Brianna Chavez may NOT be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com
The Prospector helped me use my creativity toward my degree

BY SALMA LOZOYA
The Prospector

If you told me two years ago that I would be where I am right now, I would not have believed you. My whole college career I have worked in hair salons, not really thinking about getting any experience in what I was studying—media advertising. As graduation crept in closer, and my advisor kept asking me more frequently about what plans I had as far as my career, I started to realize I had no experience in my field. This scared me, as I never intended to work for hair salons my whole life. If anything, I had obtained my cosmetology license as a form to work through college and have an enjoyable job while I finished my degree.

It took one class announcement from Veronica Gonzalez, who was my copywriting teacher during my junior year regarding positions opening up at The Prospector, specifically in the advertising department. Previous to this, I knew little about our student publication here on campus. I saw the opportunity to work in the advertising side of the publication regardless of how intimidated I was about having what I deemed “an office job,” Veronica is now my boss.

Getting started was not as hard as I initially thought. I worked in the advertising side of things, so this meant that I was responsible for coming up with our clients’ advertising. Whether this be an advertisement the client provided themselves or an advertisement I had full creative control over, I was finally able to test my skills in my major. What seemed like an intimidating job turned into one of the most liberating experiences for me. I had never had to do as many advertisements, let alone have clients allow for creative freedom. Seeing the ads in the new issue on Tuesday was a treat for me and motivated me to come up with something good and eye-catching so the client was happy with the way I created their ad.

It really does seem like a bittersweet moment, knowing that I will not be able to work at The Prospector after I graduate. Even after having long nights designing for a big project or thinking I wasn’t going to pull off a deadline, I never thought I’d miss it as much as I already am. Having a supportive staff helped make this experience so much more valuable. Not only did I gain experience in advertising, I also gained friendships and knowing that I have support from all the staff and my coworkers really makes it that much more special to know I am be part of this little Prospector family.

I would like to thank everyone in the office for making this experience one of the most memorable for me. I came in a scared little junior, doubting myself so much, thinking I was not going to be what The Prospector needed. I’m coming out with the most confidence as well as being proud of myself for taking a chance in a position I was uncomfortable with in the beginning. Everyone I worked with made the experience that much more pleasant; there was never a time where I felt uncomfortable asking for help, or helping others when I could. There was never a dull moment in the office. Watching everyone collaborate on the newspaper was such a rewarding process in which to participate. This experience was something that has shaped me as a professional and I appreciate having been given the opportunity to be a part of such a great team.

I hope that all of us graduating, as well as those who will continue to work for The Prospector after we leave, will be successful in whatever professional path they decide to work toward and that working for The Prospector will open as many opportunities for them as it did for many of us.

Salma Lozoya may NOT be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com

SSSP CONGRATULATES OUR GRADUATES

FALL 2018

Jessica Gutierrez
BS in Biological Science

Rhiannon Perez
BA in Psychology

Evelyn Ruiz
BBA in Finance

Griselda Sosa-Rico
BA in Multidisciplinary Studies

Evelyn Tovancie
BS in Biological Science

SPRING 2019

Brandy Caldera
BA in Art

Miguel Carrillo
BA in Accounting

Brandon Delgado Malanche
BS in Computer Science

Jesus Esparza
BS in Mechanical Engineering

Jezraela Gandara
BA in Digital Media Production

Luis F. Garcia
BA in English & American Literature

Vivian Pongratz
BS in Rehabilitation Sciences

Claudia Valdiviezo
BS in Cellular & Molecular Biochemistry

Aldo Rojas
BS in Biological Science

ON THEIR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

ADIOS from page 4

I hope that all of us graduating, as well as those who will continue to work for The Prospector after we leave, will be successful in whatever professional path they decide to work toward and that working for The Prospector will open as many opportunities for them as it did for many of us.

Salma Lozoya may NOT be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com

STAY THICK WHERE YOU WANT TO STAY THICK

JUST $10 A MONTH
Irreplaceable.

It’s a common word used by the community to describe UTEP President Dr. Diana Natalicio, who has played an extremely impactful role in the UTEP, El Paso and Cd. Juárez communities for decades. Her efforts to achieve access and excellence for all students has become a staple in the mission of the university.

“I just think that, you know, we shouldn’t say anyone is irreplaceable. I think what we should say is the values will be the same,” Natalicio told The Prospector in an interview in late March.

She walked into the president’s conference room on the fifth floor of the administration building sporting a black blazer with a pickax pin, a bright orange shirt underneath and of course, her classic pinned up bun. “There’s never really a good time,” Natalicio said when asked why she decided to retire. “I was trying to find a logical stopping point and 30, it’s a round number, right,” she joked. “I mean, I don’t know. For me, 30 just sounded right.”

She had just returned from a collaborative event at Socorro High School put on by UTEP, El Paso Community College and the Socorro Independent School District to encourage high school seniors to go to college—a “one-stop shop” for students as university officials helped them through the application process. That event is just one of the many community outreach efforts that Natalicio has helped implement over the decades.

Natalicio described the event as a way to promote a sense of ease for students, and reduce stress for high school seniors enrolling in college.

“The fear of failure is the thing that I think we need to try to help students (by saying), ‘You can do this. You’ve already demonstrated you can do it by succeeding in high school,’” she said.

Path to success

Natalicio’s passion for education came after she graduated high school. “My own personal experience was really the driving force because I went to a very mediocre, unambitious high school,” she said.

In her hometown of St. Louis, Missouri, Natalicio said the high school she went to did not push students to go to college. The male students were taught mechanics and woodworking, while the female students were taught needlework and homemaking. “So I ended up going to college because I didn’t have any other choice,” she said. She ended up in a business college, where she met her husband, who was studying for a master’s degree in economics. They both went on to earn doctorates and stay in academia.

In 1994, Natalicio became the president of UTEP, the first woman of color to lead a major university in the United States. In that role, she led the university from a $40 million institution to a $2 billion institution. She served as president for almost 25 years, the longest tenure of any president in the history of the university.

The first female president in the history of a public university, Natalicio has been a trailblazer for women in higher education. She has been recognized for her leadership and service, including being named the 2016 National Woman of the Year by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

“As a student of President Natalicio’s, she taught me the importance of hard work, dedication, and determination,” wrote one student. “She inspired me to pursue my dreams and to never give up.”

In her final semester, Natalicio reflects on her tenure and the impact she has made on the UTEP community. "I’m so grateful for the opportunities I’ve had and the people I’ve worked with," she said. "I’ve learned so much from everyone here and I’m excited to see what the future holds for UTEP."
Dr. Natalicio throughout 45 years of service at UTEP

1973
Natalicio assumes chairmanship of the Department of Modern Languages

1977
Promoted to associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts

1985
As vice president of academic affairs UTEP dedicated Women's Week agenda to her

1988
Natalicio is appointed President by the UT Board of Regents

1990
Natalicio looks back at a decade of change during the State of the University addres

1991
She is appointed by President George H.W. Bush to the Advisory Commision on Educational Excellence of Hispanic Americans

1992
El Paso Collaborative for academic excellence is established.

1994
She was appointed by Bill Clinton to the National Science Board.

1998
UTEP celebrates 100th commencement in the Sun Bowl

1998
President Natalicio in the much anticipated ground breaking ceremony for the New Miners Sports Complex

see SERVICE on page 19
Congratulations class of 2019

University of Texas at El Paso
Congratulations, wishing you success in your future endeavors.

Accounting and Information Systems Department

Center for Accommodations and Support Services

BEST WISHES TO UTEP’S 2019 GRADUATING CLASS.
THE FUTURE BELONGS TO YOU!

Congratulations and good luck to all of our graduates!

- College of Business Administration

Class of 2019

Congratulations.
Graduates
Graduates from the College of Science!

Ileana Jeanette Breceda
Ricardo Camillo
Darion O. Cazares
Juan G. Cazares
Ana Gerselindo Coronado Martinez
Alejandro Delgado
Valeria Delgado
Adriana Guadian
Roberto Guzman Jr.
Ott Guillermo Gust Jr.
Talid產業 Maldonado
Alberto Mata Jr.
Getsemani Molinar
Alex Williams Mondello
Justin David Morrison
Erick Munoz Luna
Ivan Alejandro Olivas
Adrian Ontiveros
Mirián E. Oseguera
Miguel Antonio Perez Ceballos
Carlos Rodriguez
Marjil Alejandro Rodriguez
Armando Saucedo Jr.
Luis Fernando Sierra
Alexandra Torres
Cesar Enrique Valenzuela Solguin Jr.
Melani Rose Walker
Nilak Stefan Vikramalitaki

Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering and Management

Nathan Alexander Gonzalez
Angel Rosales

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering

Aldo Alcantara Guardado
Abdulaziz M. Alotaibi
Abdulmajid Faisal S Alshehri
Lezlie Amorantado
Steven Andrew Cardenas
Blanca Castillo
Julio Castro
Flerance Chrystagally
Kimberly Charli Cortez
Eduardo Davila
Dexter Escanilla Denogia
Walter Doener

Class of 2019

Congratulations.
Graduates
Graduates from the College of Science!

Ileana Jeanette Breceda
Ricardo Camillo
Darion O. Cazares
Juan G. Cazares
Ana Gerselindo Coronado Martinez
Alejandro Delgado
Valeria Delgado
Adriana Guadian
Roberto Guzman Jr.
Ott Guillermo Gust Jr.
Talid産業 Maldonado
Alberto Mata Jr.
Getsemani Molinar
Alex Williams Mondello
Justin David Morrison
Erick Munoz Luna
Ivan Alejandro Olivas
Adrian Ontiveros
Mirián E. Oseguera
Miguel Antonio Perez Ceballos
Carlos Rodriguez
Marjil Alejandro Rodriguez
Armando Saucedo Jr.
Luis Fernando Sierra
Alexandra Torres
Cesar Enrique Valenzuela Solguin Jr.
Melani Rose Walker
Nilak Stefan Vikramalitaki

Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering and Management

Nathan Alexander Gonzalez
Angel Rosales

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering

Aldo Alcantara Guardado
Abdulaziz M. Alotaibi
Abdulmajid Faisal S Alshehri
Lezlie Amorantado
Steven Andrew Cardenas
Blanca Castillo
Julio Castro
Flerance Chrystagally
Kimberly Charli Cortez
Eduardo Davila
Dexter Escanilla Denogia
Walter Doener

Class of 2019

Congratulations.
Graduates
Graduates from the College of Science!

Ileana Jeanette Breceda
Ricardo Camillo
Darion O. Cazares
Juan G. Cazares
Ana Gerselindo Coronado Martinez
Alejandro Delgado
Valeria Delgado
Adriana Guadian
Roberto Guzman Jr.
Ott Guillermo Gust Jr.
Talid産業 Maldonado
Alberto Mata Jr.
Getsemani Molinar
Alex Williams Mondello
Justin David Morrison
Erick Munoz Luna
Ivan Alejandro Olivas
Adrian Ontiveros
Mirián E. Oseguera
Miguel Antonio Perez Ceballos
Carlos Rodriguez
Marjil Alejandro Rodriguez
Armando Saucedo Jr.
Luis Fernando Sierra
Alexandra Torres
Cesar Enrique Valenzuela Solguin Jr.
Melani Rose Walker
Nilak Stefan Vikramalitaki

Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering and Management

Nathan Alexander Gonzalez
Angel Rosales

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering

Aldo Alcantara Guardado
Abdulaziz M. Alotaibi
Abdulmajid Faisal S Alshehri
Lezlie Amorantado
Steven Andrew Cardenas
Blanca Castillo
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Kimberly Charli Cortez
Eduardo Davila
Dexter Escanilla Denogia
Walter Doener

Class of 2019

Congratulations.
Graduates
Graduates from the College of Science!
Congratulations to all the graduates and much success in the future.

Office of the Dean of Students

CLASS OF 2019

Congratulations Graduates!

The Department of Geological Sciences would like to congratulate each of the graduates of Spring 2019. We wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavors.

You ROCK!

- Geoscience Studies

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 pursuing graduate studies at UTEP.

- The Graduate School
Congratulations Nursing Students!
Good luck to everyone! - Al Fuentes.

Thank you mom! Love you!
Love, [Name]

Thank you for all your love.
DAD! I love you.

Thank you mom?

Thank you to all my love ones.
Thank you for everything.
Thank you to my family.
Donate to Buena Vista.

Thank you to all my love ones.
Thank you for everything.
Thank you to my family.
Donate to Buena Vista.

Thank you mom, dad & Saz.

Thank you to my family.

Gracias a mi familia por su apoyo.
Gracias a mi familia por siempre.

The University of Texas at El Paso

Graduated 2019

Gracias a mi familia.

The University of Texas at El Paso

Gracias a mi familia.

2019

Gracias a mi familia.

The University of Texas at El Paso

Gracias a mi familia.

2019

Gracias a mi familia.

The University of Texas at El Paso

Gracias a mi familia.

2019

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The University of Texas at El Paso

Gracias a mi familia.

2019

Gracias a mi familia.

The University of Texas at El Paso

Gracias a mi familia.
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

Class of 2019

Housing and Residence Life

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 2019
- UTEP President's Office
Congratulations to the graduating Class of 2019!
May you keep reaching your goals as you embark on the next journey in your life.

-Student Engagement and Leadership Center
Congratulations

class of 2019

University of Texas at El Paso

Congratulations!

From

Office of the Provost

Kevelin C. Sosa
Leslie Saiz
Natali Sosa
Nohely Solis
Guadalupe Soto
Candace D. Swindell
Paul E. Thomas - Zhi Yun Ting
Donisita Marie Tinado
Jonathan Torres
Cindy T. Trammel
Chara Elsabethe Trevizo
Sebastian Uribe
Saidag Ali Valenzuela
Abigail Valles Acosta
Aaron N. Varela
Jessica Vargas
Alfonso M. Vazquez
Lorena Arredondo
Jovana Antunes
Federico Alvarez III
Joshua Benjamin Alfsen
Megan Melis Acevedo
Bachelor of Science
College of Health Sciences

Junkai Zhong
Gerardo Vizcaino
Deanna Vitela
Raul Ivan Villarreal
Luis Alonso Villalobos
Andrea Paulette Villalobos
Tania Villa
Jimmie Villa
Ruben Torres
Alberto Torres Jr.
Maximiliano Sarmiento
Edward C. Sanchez
Georgina Salas
Emmitt Enrique Rodriguez
Jonathan Andre Rivera
Luis Carlos Porras
Derrington J. Perez
Frances A. Paez
Mario Alber Pacheco
Gabriel A. Pacheco
Marlyn Orozco
Alex Rene Ornelas
Efren Narvaez
Madeline Dewey Franklin
Kirsten Angela Franka
Melissa Flores
Emily Flores
Melissa Flores
Mara L. Garcia
Ruben Torres
Angel Martinez
Alyssa Andrea Martinez
Nadia Marquez
Anne Leris Macaraeg Manio
Ailed Macias
James W. Lomeli
Jose Vicente Lamas Jr.
Ileana Abril Jarquin
Grace Angela Hubbard
Gloria Paola Garcia
Marida I. Garcia
Sebastian Saul Gilcic
Glorifina Alejandro Garcia Bustillos
Raul Andres Gardea
Marilina Garza
Jonathan Jesus Gomez
Alejandro Gurany Jr.
Angelina Gutierrez
Syed Ammar Haider
Bianca Renee Hatch
Brandi Ann Henderson
Cynthia Martinez-Hernandez
Estefanía Hernandez
Cláudia Gabriela Hernandez-Herrera
Nathan Andrew Herrera
Brandon J. Howard
Grace Angela Hubbard
Ileana Abril Jarquin
Jose Vicente Lamas Jr.
Sarah Frances Loera
James W. Lomeli
Matthew Lopez
Amber Luna
Ailed Macias
Bianca Rebeca Magallanes
Anne Luis Macareag Mario
Nadia Marquez
Alyysa Andrea Martinez
Angel Martinez
Melissa Arrieta Martinez
Armando Martinez Ruiz
Raphael John McCullen
Eduardo Angulo
Jasmine Alexandra Mendoza
Mariza Annette Mendoza
Eduardo Merino Canizales
Ruth Meza
Vanessa Miranda
Amanda R. Moore
Yvette Morales
Madeline Jane Morgan
Elen Navaez
Amanda Nash
Kristian Nieto
Kassandra Karla Olivas
Alex Rene Orteilas
Marilyn Orozco
Jesus Armando Ortiz
Gabriel A. Pacheco
Mario Aler Pacheco
Karen Pacheco Ochoa
Miranda Leonor Padilla
Frances A. Pazo
Derrington J. Perez
Mayte Perez
Mauricio Saenz Polanco
Leslie Porras
Juan Carlos Sanabria
Juliana Arrieta Ramirez
Alexis Andrea Ramirez
Esmeralda Ramirez De Carrion
Julia Elizabeth Rodriguez
Yajaira Elisa Rodriguez
Diana Lizette Romero
Tania Romero
Kerri Rubio
Carolina Soto
Alondra Suarez
Kerri Rubio
Edlin Haydee Tuda
Monica Vasquez
Kayla Villafanas
Maritza Zuniga

School of Nursing

BS in Nursing

Robin Rhinoman Acevedo
Aida Gabriela Alvarado
Ashley Marie Aguilar
Zandra M. Aguilar
Jenean Ahmed
Benjamin Alan Alvarado
Michael Jose Vazquez
Wicente Veck
Megan R. Verrana
Marc Anthony Veliz
Madison Veregkas
Francisco Villa II

Bachelor of Social Work

Rocio Barajas
Dejmine Cano-Sanchez
Hazel V. Cazares
Jaimie Ann Cervantes
Julian Carlos Dominguez
Yohana Edith Duarte
Brenda L. Espera
Jason Anthony Flores
Idaly Galindo
Angela Louise Gutierrez-Macias
Christina Lopez
Ingrid Marcela Loya
Sofia Mazaas
Rafael Martinez
Jennifer Munoz
Alexandra Polanco
Estrella Ramirez
Ernesto Ramirez
Esmeralda Ramirez De Carrion
Julia Elizabeth Rodriguez
Yajaira Elisa Rodriguez
Diana Lizette Romero
Tania Romero
Kerri Rubio
Carolina Soto
Alondra Suarez
Kerri Rubio
Edlin Haydee Tuda
Monica Vasquez
Kayla Villafanas
Maritza Zuniga

Alfred Hijar
Salma Sofia Ishibli
Salma Yamel Issa Rios
Charity Kiplagat
Linda LeLenger
Beatrix Lopez
Cesar B. Lubrano
Carolina Salazar Lucero Salas
Alisaa Luna
Teresa Mares
Amy Miller
Breanna Mitchell
Brise Maria Molina
Natalia Montoya
Desiree Nicole Morales
Lakshia Shortila Muriz
Angela Ruth Munoz
Ana Patricia Nunez
Krystal L. Ortiz
Linda Mirei Ozuna
Jose Palafox
Victoria Christine Padilla-Villalobos
Alma Angelica Palacios
Karen V. Palacios
Tara Michelle Paxton
Máyda Pedersen
Nathan Pedregón
Adriana Pérez
Hector Mamedy Perez
Denise Ponce-Quintanilla
Ashley Marie Purcell
Elizabeth Ramirez
Malyria B. Razo
Gabrielle Reyes
José Yvonne Reyes
Stephanie Reyes
Tara M. Rocha
Mina Xu Mora Rodriguez
Brandi Nicole Romero
Stacy Romero
Yessenia Ross
Brandi Nicole Romero
Stacy Romero
Lilly Sanchez-Hernandez
Eric A. Santeliz
Christopher Steven Sapien
Wesley R. Solis
Sydney Sutton-White
Novalyn A. Tapia
Kristina Anita Therese Torres
Salvador Valdivia
Stephanie Marie Valenzuela
Brittany Irene Werhoffer
Sara Lee White
Jessica L. Williams
Sarah Wolf
Elizabeth K. Zydony

Congratulations!
President Natalicio signs an agreement with NASA officials to create a network of research for students.

Sworn in as board chair of the American Council on Education, the largest national higher education organization.

Received the Orden Mexicana del Águila Azteca, the highest honor bestowed on foreign nationals by the president of Mexico.

Natalicio discussed Tier-one status at the opening of the new student Health Center at Union building East.

Named among the Top 50 world Leaders by Fortune magazine.

Named the all-time longest serving female president of a four-year public university.

Named one of the 35 people who will shape the future of Texas, Texas Monthly Magazine.

“Glory Road” celebrates the 1966 Texas Western Men’s National Basketball Championship Team.

Received distinguished alumnus award, Texas Exes, UT Austin.

Named among the Top 50 world Leaders by Fortune magazine.

Named to the Time magazine 100 Most Influential People list.
the female students were taught secretarial skills and home economics. “When I finished high school, I went out like all my fellow graduates and got a job. I mean, that’s what we did. So, I was working at a large manufacturing company as a receptionist and switchboard operator,” she said.

There she learned how to plug in and change the cables swiftly to connect telephone calls. Within the first month of doing so, something felt off. “I looked at that switchboard. And I realized I can’t live my life just be swallowed up by this by this box,” Natalicio said.

A scared 17-year-old girl who had never left her neighborhood did something out of her comfort zone. She walked into St. Louis University, a private Jesuit college, and asked how she could enroll.

“They knew from the high school’s name and reputation that it wasn’t very strong so they told me, ‘Look, you can come, but you’re going to really have to work hard; you’re going to have to really catch up,’” Natalicio recalled.

So she did. Natalicio took classes in the morning, walked to work after class and studied on the bus on her way home. Her collegiate journey taught her the importance of a higher education and why students, like the ones at Socorro High School she had spoken to earlier that day, need to realize that. “I really understand how important it is not to get into the trap of not going to college and telling yourself ‘I’ll go later’ because it doesn’t happen, seldom happens,” Natalicio said. “And sort to trying to grapple with the fact that you’re going to have to step up your game, you’re gonna have to do this, if you want a different kind of life.”

The idea of having a better and different life for herself resulted in several personal achievements. During her time at SLU, she became a part of the honors program which eventually opened the doors to a fellowship that sent her to Brazil—a trip she said changed her life.

“I was on my own. I’d never been on an airplane. I’d never traveled anywhere, really. I was kind of transformed,” Natalicio said.

It also gave her the opportunity to connect with the then-chairman of the languages department of the University of Texas at Austin. She became a teaching assistant and earned a master’s degree in Portuguese and a doctorate in linguistics from the university.

From professor to president

Natalicio arrived at UTEP to become a visiting assistant professor. She said she wanted to try out the job and the university for one year, but one year turned into 45. Natalicio fell in love with the city and all it had to offer, including the drive and motivation many UTEP students have. She went on to become professor of linguistics, chair of the modern languages department, dean of liberal arts, and vice president for academic affairs.

Natalicio said the process to become president is much different today, but becoming president was never really a goal of hers until she realized her plans could change if she didn’t. Natalicio was three years in to her five-year plan as provost when she applied for the position.

“As the process began to develop, I began to understand that if I didn’t get the job as president, I wasn’t going to get to do my agenda anyway. So, I might as well throw my hat in the ring,” Natalicio said.

After several interviews, Natalicio—the only woman out of five finalists—was selected to become president in 1988. During her 30-year tenure, the university has worked tirelessly to provide access and excellence for all UTEP students.

“Thirty years is enough time to get something like that done because executing a strategic plan takes time,” Natalicio said.

When her tenure year began, Natalicio said one of the challenges she faced in order to provide access was getting the student demographics to mirror El Paso’s demographics.

“I mean (UTEP is) a public university. You have a public mandate. You’ve got to do that,” Natalicio said. “So, that’s one of the things we set out to do and not without resistance from a lot of people who kept telling us ‘you’re going to have to lower standards.’ I told them ‘no, we’re going to raise standards.’”

She added that in order to create access for students, UTEP needed to be able to do it well in order to give students access to the highest quality degree they need to compete with other people out in the world.

Natalicio said the excellence aspect of the university’s mission has taken a bit more time in order to provide students, faculty and staff with better resources. During her final year of her tenure, UTEP was able to obtain a national top tier ranking. UTEP’s charted course and its mission, led by Natalicio, has become a model for other universities.

“You’ve just got to do both access and excellence, because too many students don’t have any other options. We have to give them the best education we can, so that this college investment, this big bet that they made on themselves, is going to pay rich dividends,” Natalicio said.

Looking to the future

The UT Board of Regents unanimously selected Dr. Heather Wilson, U.S. Secretary of the Air Force, as Dr. Natalicio’s successor, on April 2.

Natalicio said the most important advice she can give is to get to know and understand the UTEP students.

“I think the hard part will be somebody coming in new, and not having that kind of ecosystem understanding, and having to develop it quickly in order to be successful,” Natalicio said. “Because here, the surrounding area, and the people who live in it, are really important factors. … Our role here is to educate the people who are here.”

In March 2018, The Prospector spoke to Natalicio as she celebrated her 30th year as president. She said at the time she had a long list of things she wanted to accomplish before she retired. When asked about that list and what has been checked off, she simply said “many things,” but she’s also added to it, too.

“The list never really shortens. You just have different pathways, different things,” Natalicio said. “I’m thinking a lot about what I’m going to do and how I’m going to do it. I’m going to breathe first, you know, that’ll be good.”

Natalicio said it will be difficult to downsize as she is preparing to move out of the Hoover House.

“I have a lot of work to do at home, because I’ve accumulated so much,” she said. “I’m going to have to get a little faster at it. Because my pace is too slow, I wouldn’t be able to move for at least five years if I stay at this pace.”

She plans on traveling, she said. She will visit Portugal this summer, a place where she said she feels “in her element” and once called home for a year and a half.

“I love Portugal, it’s a place where I feel tall, Portuguese are fairly short and that’s always reassuring,” Natalicio said.

While she may be stepping out of the administration building and the Hoover House, Natalicio will still call El Paso her home. She said she will still be cheering the university on and offer her opinions “if anybody wants them.”

It’s hard not to call Dr. Diana Natalicio—a woman who saw the university’s potential and pushed students to achieve their goals just as she did—irreplaceable. But, we won’t say she’s irreplaceable. Instead, we’ll say she’s one of a kind. We’ll say she has definitely impacted the lives of many people within the UTEP community, and that will forever be cherished.
Graduate Amy Miller masters the cello

BY GLENDA AVALOS

The Prospector

Graduation marks the end of an exciting, frustrating and enriching part of a student's life and after two years as a graduate music performance student, Amy Miller is ready to receive her master's degree in music performance.

“My first year here, I was the only cello master student and I was principal on the UTEP Symphony Orchestra,” Miller said. “It taught me a lot—to step up when you're put in that role.”

It’s one of those things where you have to take it day by day, and think ‘my life is not over, what else do I want to do?’

- Amy Miller

Music Performance graduate student

Born in the small town of Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Maryland, Amy grew up playing lacrosse until an injury, and during her junior year of high school, Amy picked up the cello.

“I've been playing lacrosse since I was four, and that was something that I loved to play. I was recruited and got signed to a university in Boston and then I tore my ACL and meniscus, and that’s when everything shifted,” Miller said. “It’s one of those things where you have to take it day by day, and think ‘my life is not over, what else do I want to do?’ Music was something that I had loved to do.”

Throughout high school, Miller was a member of the Youth Symphony Orchestra and participated in the Kennedy Center Youth Fellowship Program. Although Miller spent a lot of time working on her musical talent, she never expected to make it her career.

“I found myself at the University of Michigan, doing my cello performance as an undergraduate and there's where I developed my taste for music and kind of really getting into that world,” Miller said.

Miller said the experience that she received at Michigan was eye-opening for her since her classmates were studying music seriously their entire lives and she hadn't. She worked to introduce herself to that world and started to see what it took to be a musician.

“I decided that I really wanted to be a cellist and I wanted to work hard and be the best that I can be,” Miller said.

After graduating from the University of Michigan, Miller has continued her education at UTEP and has since been involved with the El Paso community by participating as a substitute cellist in the El Paso Symphony Orchestra and Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra.

Miller has served as a teaching assistant for the String Project at UTEP, a program that helps tutor students from kinder to fifth grade who can't afford individual music lessons.

“We teach them how to play their instruments privately and then as a group together. It's just a really good experience for them and for us as teachers,” Miller said.

After graduation in May, Miller wants to engage with the community by getting to know her audience through music. In the future, she wants to keep teaching students about music and plans to dedicate herself to art management.

Glen Avelos may be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com.

Miller has served as a substitute cellist in the El Paso Symphony Orchestra.
DesignHaus highlights seniors

BY DANIEL MENDEZ
The Prospector

As part of earning a graphic design degree at UTEP, one must complete the portfolio class. It’s a class that usually is the first to be filled once registration starts and overflows with students. Each semester these students must curate a student-led exhibition to showcase the work they have done throughout their years at UTEP and present it at the Glass Gallery in the Fox Fine Arts building.

This semester’s exhibit will showcase a total of 16 students as they present DesignHaus 2019.

“Each student in the class presents their work in the showcase, so we put forward our best work,” said Laura Chaidez, double major in graphic design and media advertising. “And we present it to the community, it can be either to our family members or friends and, preferably, to professionals.”

Clive Cochran, senior lecturer for the UTEP graphic design department, states that this is the department’s 10-year anniversary of hosting the event. The department has hosted 20 shows (two per academic year).

The event was born when six students took it upon themselves to create an exhibition to present their work. They did it off campus at an art studio and that event evolved to what the class is today.

Cochran orchestrated his senior portfolio class to emphasize the word “teamwork.” Teamwork is necessary to the students’ success as they control everything—from the theme, to the organization and scheduling. The students handle the catering, scheduling the Glass Gallery for use, arranging and cleaning the gallery, marketing, the graphics of posters and more.

In the first week of class, the students usually hold a meeting and discuss the plan for the exhibition, thus creating leaders in the group to help make sure everything goes as planned, Cochran said. For him, a goal for this class that came to fruition over time were the teachable moments for the students when they seek employment in the real world because they are working with others to make sure the graphics present the message relayed.

Brooke Crisp, senior graphic design major, created a poster for the event, but later gave the task to another student whom she felt would execute it better. So, she gave herself the task of making sure everybody was on schedule and not falling behind.

One of the group's biggest obstacles is that students have varied schedules, causing several occasions when not everybody was present to hash out all the details to ensure plans were executed on time. So communication through texts and meeting in person have been the key to making it all possible.

“Since it is student-led, and we are all doing other things, (it’s) sometimes very hectic to get everybody together,” Crisp said. “There hasn’t been an instance where we could all get together,” Crisp said.

This year’s inspiration for the exhibition is from the Staatliches Bauhaus, commonly known as the Bauhaus in Germany. It was a short-lived German art school that was made famous for the approach to design it publicized and taught. This year the school turns 100 years old, so the class felt that they should honor the school that is ubiquitous in today’s work.

An opening reception will be held 6 to 9 p.m. May 9 at the Glass Gallery and will run through May 17.

Daniel Mendez may NOT be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com.

PSST...
PASS THE KEYS
#StartsWithMe

UNIVERSITY AUTO CENTER

UTEP Students get 10% discount*
Get your car ready for the El Paso heat!
Free AC check ups!
*on major work

2920 N Mesa St, El Paso, TX 79902
Goodbye, UTEP. It’s been real.

BY CATHERINE RAMIREZ
The Prospector

Alas the time has come, and where to begin? I’ve always loved writing, and I never considered a career in journalism — until recently. In the summer of 2018, I walked into The Prospector office to give real journalism a shot. It was definitely a challenge, but a challenge I enjoyed nonetheless. The biggest test I faced was the leap I took from a contributor to entertainment editor in the fall of 2018. The amount of responsibility increased by about 80 percent and it really kicked me into gear and allowed to me grow professionally.

To all aspiring student journalists, one of the biggest challenges for me was realizing as a student working for a college newspaper we might not receive the recognition or praise compared to someone from a large or local news/media outlet, but we all are equal and it’s important to remember that.

It’s not only hard for student journalists to feel respected professionally but also, it’s hard to be respected as students in all job sectors. It is important you keep your head high and remind yourself of your goals. No matter what job you take as a freshman in college or as a graduate, you will start from the bottom, but it will benefit you professionally in the long run. Although no one wants to be an intern doing dirty work, it is necessary because you network and become emerged to your industry that will eventually lead you to your goals.

Aside from all the deadlines, layouts, long production nights and re-writing headlines a thousand times — being part of The Prospector has introduced me to a new love for El Paso and the UTEP community.

From covering concerts, theatre productions, festivals, art exhibitions, feature profiles on artists, to Trump’s MAGA rally, I have found a new appreciation for this community and city all thanks to The Prospector. The events and the stories I’ve covered created a sort of bond with this city and community that I will carry with me forever, wherever I go, and I am forever grateful.

I will admit when I attended my first semester at UTEP I was not the biggest fan of the school or the idea of college in general, but over time and after some realizations, I began to love the college experience as a whole and UTEP, in particular. For anyone wondering if they should join that club, sorority/fraternity, run for a position in SGA, or join a work study program — if you can afford it, do it.

Spending four to five years in college sounds dreadful, but it actually flies by. I don’t really remember every late night I stayed up crying because of how frustrated I was with school, but those tears and late nights toughened me up. What I do remember are the all the fun times I had at UTEP games, concerts, and other activities that brought me into the Miner community. So, get involved.

Undergraduate time is a little awkward. You feel grown, but you’re not. You feel free, but you’re not. You’re trying to figure life out and what step to take next, but it’s important to enjoy each day as much as you can because even as grown adults we will still be trying to figure life out.

Although graduation is only days away, I still have much to “figure out,” but I know that, eventually, everything will fall into place. I hope to continue my education by attending grad school and seeing what happens from there.

But before it all ends, I can’t finish without thanking those who supported me through it all — my parents, my sister, family and friends who pushed me continuously when I wanted to give up. I want to thank all my Prospy team, all 31 of whom for being great coworkers and cool people. I want to personally thank Vero and Tracy for teaching me the ins-and-outs of working for a newspaper and the support they gave all semester long; your work doesn’t go unnoticed.

To all the Prospector editors, Gigi, Brianna, Ashley, Claudia, Christian, Curly and Isaiah for long production nights, budget meetings and other shenanigans that I will definitely take with me forever. You all are amazing, smart and just awesome people. I wish you all nothing but the best I know you all will succeed in all that you do.

So, to close, goodbye UTEP. For now.

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Dance seniors present final project performances

BY ALEXIA X. NAVA CARMONA

The Department of Theatre and Dance will present “Trajectory: Senior Dance Capstones” May 10 as part of a final senior dance project.

The capstones are a series of eight- to 10-minute choreographed pieces directed by the graduating dance seniors, including group and solo dances. The student projects include a written paper proposal with a thesis statement. The seniors work with designers from the department to set up a show.

“It’s basically an opportunity for us to get to work with lighting designers and the rest of the department to build a show and build the show that we want,” said Marayah Vigo, a senior majoring in both dance and psychology.

“It gives us a great opportunity to learn how to work with dancers in a choreographer-dancer setting and seeing how can we work together to create this show,” Vigo said.

The choreographies in the Capstones are of different themes. Vigo’s capstone piece named “Caldo de pollo” is about hunger and how one in six people go hungry every day.

“(I’m) really playing with this idea of utilizing my dancers’ own movement, instead of just saying, ‘This is what you’re going to do and you’re going to do it’ but really asking them to come up with their own ideas of hunger and poverty, and constructing it in a way that I guess feels organic for them,” Vigo said.

Senior Yazmin Norris created the choreography and directed her piece “Taking Away From Ourselves” that speaks about anxieties with the participation of nine dancers. Norris is also doing a second piece involving two dancers called “3 a.m.” about her recurring nightmares.

“I have a lot of nightmares and night terrors, so I’m trying to think of all those feelings that I get when I’m waking up scared, or yelling or crying after a nightmare and I’m trying to make it into a dance,” Norris said. “(This) piece is called ‘3 a.m.’ because, when I wake up from these night terrors, it’s usually 3 a.m.”

Both Vigo and Norris are planning to pursue a dancing career once they complete their capstones and graduate from UTEP.

Vigo wants to take a break for a while before studying for her master’s in dance movement therapy, where she will use what she learned at UTEP by majoring on both dance and psychology.

“I feel like I added the psychology major in order to be able to prepare myself for the things that I can and will be doing as a dance movement therapist, and there’s a lot of psychology things that are considered prerequisites for the master’s program.”

Norris said she wants to be a dance teacher. She has had a studio for two years now and at first she wanted to remain self-employed.

“I opened up my own studio because I didn’t want to ever go back working for someone else. In my mind, I was just coming back to finish my degree, but now that I’ve been here, and I’m about to graduate, I think I will go back to trying to teach,” Norris said. “My plan is to maybe find a studio this summer to maybe have a part time job and teach and then eventually, I’ll look into teaching at a high school or a studio.”

“Trajectory: Senior Dance Capstones” will have its first show 7:30 p.m. May 10 in the Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall. Following shows will be at 2:30 p.m. and at 7:30 p.m. May 11.

For information, visit events.utep.edu/event/trajectory_senior_dance_capstones.

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Senior
centerfielder
Ariel Blair
Graduate to end season with tourney success

BY MICHAEL CUVEILO
The Prospector

El Paso’s own Ariel Blair, a graduating senior center fielder for the UTEP softball team, looks to close out her collegiate career with a second trip to the Conference-USA softball tournament. The Miners clinched the seventh seed in the conference tournament, winning two out of three games versus Florida International University this past weekend. Blair did her part with her first career triple, and the first run batted in this season in the Sunday matchup against the Panthers.

The Hanks High School graduate has been a four-year starter for the Miners primarily in center field. At Hanks, she compiled a .510 career batting average and as a senior was named the El Paso Times All-City First Team. As a senior, Blair ranked third nationally in stolen bases with 39, and second statewide with 65 runs scored. The quick-footed Blair was ranked 94th ranked prospect in the state of Texas by MaxPreps, one of the top sources for High School athletics.

During her career at UTEP, Blair has contributed with excellent defense and is a significant factor on the diamond. Overall, Blair has 23 stolen bases in her career and has stolen 16 out of 17 bases in the past two seasons. Her 10 total stolen bases in 2018 tie for sixth all-time in Miner history for a season. For her career, Blair has 92 hits and 70 runs, to go along with 175 putouts in the field.

Blair said she overcame much adversity to be able to play. She started playing softball at age six and made the varsity team as a freshman. As a sophomore at age 14, Blair came down with a throat infection that turned out to be much worse, with numbness of her hands and feet.

She became paralyzed in her limbs from the elbow and knees down and diagnosed with Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS). GBS is a rare neurological disorder which causes the body's immune system to attack part of the body's nerve system, which can result in weakness to paralysis.

Blair recovered from this rare illness and became one of El Paso’s best softball players and translated that into an athletic scholarship at her hometown university.

When asked about her decision last year about attending UTEP to The Prospector, Blair said “This is probably one of my best decisions I have ever made. I love being able to wear UTEP across my chest every game and support my hometown.”

Senior centerfielder Ariel Blair had 10 stolen bases in the 2018 season, ranking her sixth all-time in program history.

Jason Blair, was a tight end for UTEP from 1993 to 1996 and had 43 receptions for 503 yards along with two touchdowns during his career.

Blair's father was recently named the head coach of the football program at Hanks High School after two seasons as the offensive coordinator, replacing former UTEP assistant Aaron Price. Her sister, Alyessee, is currently on the softball team for Hanks and her mother, Rachel Blair, ran cross country at UTEP and coached at Hanks for five years.

An excellent student, Blair has been named to Conference-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll every season she has been at UTEP. Student-athletes named to the Commissioner's Honor Roll must maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average or better. Blair will complete her bachelor’s degree in Health Promotion.

Blair looks to extend her college playing days as far into the postseason as possible. The Miners (17-32, 10-14) will open versus defending conference champion and sixth seed Middle Tennessee State (27-26, 11-13) in a single elimination game at 2:30 p.m. May 8 in Birmingham, Alabama. All four first round matchups will be streamed on ESPN +.

I love being able to wear UTEP across my chest every game and support my hometown.

-Ariel Blair
Senior centerfielder
UTEP Softball

PRISCILLA GOMEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Deuces UTEP

BY DANIEL MENDEZ
The Prospector

“They say ‘they never really miss you ‘till you dead or you gone’ so on that note, I’m leaving after this song,” are words on Jay-Z’s Black Album, the album that was supposed to be his retirement album.

But that was not the case and those opening bars on the album share my same sentiment about leaving UTEP.

UTEP and I haven’t had the best relationship from the jump. I mean, I hated you. I despised you on my first go around at the university. But after some academic probation, where I really found myself and found what I actually wanted to do in the real world, I came back, got off probation, changed my major and now I’m finally graduating. It took a while, but greatness is a process that is what I keep telling myself.

But on this second go-around at UTEP, it came with a certain appreciation. The fact that this second go-around, all my friends had either dropped out, and proceeded with life – or one graduated here or there – but I was alone, made it different this time around. It made me concrete on academics and eventually led me to The Prospector, where I’ll be honest, it has been my favorite thing about my last two plus years at UTEP.

My Prospy career started off by being drenched in beer and champagne when the first thing I was assigned was an El Paso Chihuahuas game where they won the 2017 PCL Pacific Conference Championship. I’ll never forget that experience. It was then on my drive home that I confirmed to myself that the world of media and sports is what I want to do in life.

From covering a winless football season, to a new athletic director to the sudden retirement of Tim Floyd and the hiring of Rodney Terry to the football program’s first win in two seasons, UTEP Athletics has given me an opportunity that I’ll forever be thankful for.

From growing up as a fan to doing media for events, it has been one of my favorite things to cover while I’ve been here despite the struggles. Shoutout to Drew Bonney and Jim Senter, especially you Senter, I’ll forever appreciate our off-the-record convos. The Prospector and UTEP Athletics made me appreciate the university.

see DEUCES on page 26
Heading into this semester I told myself that I didn’t want to be pigeonholed. Just writing for sports, I had been sports editor, I wanted something a bit more. I wanted to be a well-rounded journalist, so the fact that we didn’t have that many writers this semester, or the fact that I wanted to challenge myself, I found myself doing more news stories. Some of the news stories I had been able to cover have been some of my favorite experiences. From O’Rourke’s presidential campaign launch, the Trump rally, and all that it entailed, to highlighting professors who are doing incredible research for the university. This is where you can say my appreciation for the university grew to admiration.

But it’s not only the assignments that made me open my arms up to UTEP, it was the people I met along my journey at the good old Prospector. From our original director Kathy and AB who was editor-in-chief (EIC) at that time and took a shot on me and gave me the chance to admire.

To our current director Veronica Gonzalez, I’m going to miss going to your office and talking about life and its tribulations and my level-headedness through it all despite it being one of the most stressful issues I ever got to be a part of. You two may not know it, but you’ve helped me get through this semester—so thank you Bri Bri and Gigibertha. Also, one time for me because if it wasn’t for her we would’ve been so screwed for our cover. Also, Christian, you are the GOAT of covers.

To the next editors in line, I’m sure you’ll be part of. You two may not know it, but you’ve helped me get through this semester—so thank you Bri Bri and Gigibertha. Also, one time for me because if it wasn’t for her we would’ve been so screwed for our cover. Also, Christian, you are the GOAT of covers.

To the homies, it’s dope that we are all looking for houses is a huge step forward and I understand. I look forward to yours and Elise’s future though, taking the jump and looking for houses is a huge step forward and I’m happy to be a part of it. And last but not least, the two wolves of Cinci street, Tubs and Briones, you two are crazy, but I wouldn’t have it any other way. To the homies, I mentioned in this graph just know I love you and thanks for being there. Thank you.

“Strive for what you believe in, set goals and you can achieve them,” Jay-Z.

So long UTEP, Curly out.

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Highlights of 2019 spring athletics

BY ISAIAH RAMIREZ

The Prospector

The 2019 spring semester featured tournament wins, names being placed in record books and a conference championship. Miner fans have plenty to look forward to after a solid outing by several Miner programs. Let’s take a look at the notable events that took place in UTEP athletics during the 2019 spring semester.

Women’s Track and Field

For the fourth time in five years, the UTEP Women’s Track and Field team won the Conference-USA indoor track and field championship Feb. 17. Senior Lilian Koech won the gold medal in the mile run, with sophomore Carolyne Chepkosgei earning the silver medal in the same event. Junior Linda Cheruiyot earned a gold medal in the 300 m race winning with a time of 9:30.67.

The Miners also excelled in the field with freshman Roosa Yloenen throwing her collegiate best mark of 50.44 in the javelin throw at the Texas A&M Invitational. This throw placed her at seventh all-time in the UTEP record book.

Men’s Golf

A Conference-USA championship was not evident this season for the UTEP men’s golf team, but there were some great moments for team.

The Miners won the Pepsi Cola Classic and sophomore Oskar Ambrosius showed great promise for this program having six top 10 finishes and winning the Bearkat Invitational.

Senior Aaron Terrazas was named to the All-Conference USA second team with a senior season that included four top-five finishes. Terrazas also earned Male Athlete of the Year at the first annual Golden Pick Awards.

As a team, the Miners capped off the year with four top-five finishes and having junior Eduardo Gonzalez returning for the Miners who shot a career-low of 67 during the third round of the Western Intercollegiate Tournament.

Women’s Tennis

The UTEP women’s tennis team has a lot to look forward to next season after an improved 2019 campaign.

Freshman Kirsten Prelle who was recently named to the All-Conference USA singles second team led the Miners with 22 wins and is the first all-conference Miner since 2016. Prelle’s overall winning percentage of .733 places her at eight in the UTEP record books, and her 22 wins places her at 11th all-time. Prelle also earned a 17-7 record in doubles competition and competed at the No. 1 position in singles and doubles for the Miners.

The Miners earned three straight wins for the first time since the 2015-2016 season defeating Portland State, Boise State and UT Tyler.

Sophomore Erandi Martinez earned a win in straight sets at the ITA Mountain Regional Tournament and was named the Steve Hoy UTEP Athlete of the Week going 2-0 in singles play against Boise State Apr. 5, and Wyoming Mar. 2.

The two recent additions of international standouts Thassane Abraham and Eve Daniels along with returners in Prelle and Martinez bring plenty of promise for this young program.

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