While the anticipation builds up for graduating seniors, some students are prepared to leave UTEP and showcase the skills they have been working on for years to the world.

"Honestly, at first it felt like it was not such a big deal, but as the date gets closer, suddenly I’m realizing that I’m really going to miss coming to UTEP every day," said Alberto Ceseña, senior media advertising major. "This was my second home, where I had my first jobs and participated in organizations. But now it’s time to show the world what I learned and how to apply it in order to be productive in society.

A university tradition at commencement is the selection of banner bearers, which is comprised of the students from each college who had the highest GPA. This year’s candidate for banner bearer for the College of Science is Axel Moreira, microbiology major. "Being able to represent the College of Science in such a special occasion is an honor and I am sure it will be a memorable experience," Moreira said. "I expect the ceremony to be filled with great joy and positive energy from both the graduates and their family and friends. I will be able to see family members that I have not seen in years so it will be like an early Christmas present."

Moreira plans to continue his education and go to medical school. "UTEP has provided me with my undergraduate education and has prepared me well for my future educational goals," Moreira said. "Although I will miss the university, I am ready for a semester off before I begin medical school."

The other graduating seniors who may be recognized as banner bearers at the winter commencement are Jesie Moreno, College of Liberal Arts, Isabel Belliard, College of Business Administration, Maria Torres, College of Education, Hassan Cuhin, College of Engineering, Joseph Cole, College of Health Sciences and Lindsey Hall, School of Nursing.

There are also three candidates for graduate school banner bearers, one for each commencement. The students are Mackenzie Frazier, English and American literature, for the morning commencement, Lilia Lopez-Terrezas, educational administration, in the afternoon and Claudette Barragan, health sciences, in the evening.

Graduates exit UTEP, enter workforce

BY JASMINE AGUILERA
The Prospector

Graduation
Dec. 10 Schedule

9:00 a.m.*
Morning Commencement
College of Liberal Arts
2:00 p.m.*
Afternoon Commencement
College of Business Administration
College of Education
7:00 p.m.*
Evening Commencement
College of Engineering
College of Health Sciences
School of Nursing
UT Co-op Programs

see GRADUATION on page A14
Saying good-bye to more than just UTEP

BY DIANA AMARO

The Prospector

If someone had told me five years ago that I would be graduating with a bachelor’s degree after three and a half years, I would have been shocked. I would have marveled at the age at which I graduated and at the thought that I had accomplished so much in such a short time. I would not believe it. But here I am, and I am grateful for the university because I was forced to juggle my schoolwork, my involvement in M.E.Ch.A. and the community, my two jobs, and meeting deadlines for the paper. My experiences led me to an organization I had no idea existed, but it also opened my eyes to the world that I may have never been exposed to otherwise. I was politicized through the Mexican-American Studies courses at UT and the Chicanos Studies courses here at UTEP. Being able to relate with the material I was studying not only made it easier for me to get involved and be passionate, but it also opened my eyes to the disparities and injustices people face color face, especially those injustices I had never noticed about my own hometown. My experiences led me to an organization I had no idea existed, but they changed my life forever. Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (M.E.Ch.A.) is a political and social movement that aims to bring awareness to and fight for the rights and liberation of all Mexican-Americans. While my time in school was bit-sweet, I would be graduating with a degree in multicultural studies after almost two years. There are many other things that I will never forget, but most importantly, I will never forget the people who were a part of my college career, such as the professors, administration, and the old and new friends.

Of course, I would like to thank my parents for all the support they gave me, financially and emotionally, because they are the reason I will be walking across the stage next week. I also want to thank my siblings, cousins, aunts and uncles for always being there for me by asking how everything was going. And I want to thank my husband for always pushing me whenever I complained about having too much work with his simple, “get it done!” and “make it happen!” attitude. That pushed me more than I thought it would.

I have had people ask me what I am majoring in and what I want to do with that. You’d think those people would have supported me 100 percent but instead, they told me to choose something that will bring in a lot of income. My response to them is why should I spend thousands of dollars on classes for an occupation that doesn’t interest me? I want to make a living with my degree in multidisciplinary journalism, working as a photographer, then that is what I’m going to do.

No one should be able to convince me otherwise and that is something that not only I should abide by, but everyone should. Don’t be afraid to do what you have a passion for and don’t just try to go with what others want you to do because they think it’s better for you. It’s your life, and you want to have the freedom to do what you want. You don’t have to stay on the path that others want you to follow. You need to do what is right for you or you’ll end up resenting your life forever.

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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

This week’s poll question: Should students be allowed to park on campus?

vote at WWW.UTEPPROSPECTOR.COM

POLL RESULTS

Would you support a tuition increase in order to have more class offerings?

38% YES

62% NO

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Academic

Forums lay out plans for a tuition increase

Gary Edens, interim vice president of student affairs (left) and Pablo Padilla, SGA president (right) talk to students about the plans to increase tuition Nov. 30 at the Union Building East.

BY HENRY ARAMBILDE AND AARON MARTINEZ
The Prospector

University officials held two forums to discuss a proposed tuition increase of 2.6 percent for undergraduate students and 3.6 percent for graduate and out-of-state students, which would begin in fall 2012. The two forums were held Nov. 22 and 30 at the Union Building East to give students the details on the expected tuition increase and to hear feedback from them, but less than 40 students combined showed up to the two forums. A website was also launched to give more information on the proposal to more students.

“I think the forums are there to give students a general idea of the changes taking place, in this case, raising tuition for the fall semester of 2012 by about 3%. But I also think that because of the lack of interest from the rest of the student body, a lot of details go unmentioned,” said Christopher Schulzmann, junior pre-business major. “They host these forums to inform students and listen to their feedback. My question is how far does this feedback really go? Does anything we say make a difference without 20,000 signatures behind it? I personally don’t feel it does, which is half of the reason I spoke up at the forum.”

Gary Edens, interim vice president of student affairs, said one of the main reasons for the increase in tuition is to help create more classes for students. Currently, some classes are only offered every other semester, which may delay students for graduation. Although, Jovan Abrego, sophomore English major, said that the main focus of the forums should be about the reasons why UTEP does not already have the necessary funds to have all the classes students need available every semester.

“They said the reason for the increase is to offer more classes and help students graduate faster, but I would not support an increase until the things that we do not really need are reduced in the budget like the recreation fees,” Abrego said. “We first have to cover the fundamentals like course offerings. As a university, course offerings should be the most fundamental thing.”

Fees such as the recreation one are different and go through another process to get approved than tuition rates. Any changes to tuition rates must go through the UT-System Board of Regents, while fees are voted on by the student body and then must be approved by the Texas Legislature.

Edens said the guidelines for the process of increasing rates were given by the UT-System Board of Regents to UTEP President Diana Natalicio in October. Shortly after that, an advisory committee was formed. The committee consisted of 10 students and five faculty members.

“They met Nov. 2 and have had four meetings over the past three weeks. Really, they’re kind of just finalized their proposal, and so now it’s about getting that proposal out to the community to get feedback. We ultimately need to submit the final plan on Dec. 15,” Edens said. “These forums are part of a process that we currently have in place for setting tuition fees for the next biennium starting fall 2012. This is the first chance that we actually have of unveiling a plan that has been talked about with the student-majority committee, which has been meeting for about three weeks, to identify areas of investment.”

- Oscar Marroles, senior theater arts major

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December 11, 2011
Obama proposes help for some students drowning in debt

SHANNON MCDONALD / SHFWire photo

BY SHANNON MCDONALD
Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

WASHINGTON – College isn’t cheap – and it keeps getting more expensive. But some federal loan borrowers may soon get a break, while others may have just missed the cut.

Katherine Kopriva, 23, graduated in May with a debt of more than $50,000. But because she took out her first student loan in 2007, she will not qualify for the recent proposals to change the program.

“I could use the help”, Kopriva, a 2011 business graduate of the University of Iowa, said. “I haven’t even bud- geted in my student loans, and I have to start paying back next month.”

President Barack Obama an- nounced a proposal in October to make it easier to repay student loans. Pay As You Earn would lower monthly payments through an income-based repayment plan that first be- came available to borrowers in 2009.

The current law allows graduates to cap their monthly payments at 15 percent of their income, and after 25 years, whatever is left is forgiven. Obama’s proposal would lower the monthly payments to 10 percent as early as next year – two years earlier than planned. Under this provision, remaining student debt would be forgiven after 20 years instead of 25 years.

Before borrowers can benefit from these changes, the proposals need to pass through negotiated rulemaking – a process in which interest groups will come to a consensus. These groups are likely to involve universities, bor- rowers and loan service companies. The Federal Trade Commission, according to the U.S. Department of Education. Discussions are expected to start early next year with a goal of finishing before spring graduations.

“People have been drowning in debt; it could really help you get by,” Kopriva said. “It could really help you get by.”

Kopriva earns nearly $38,000 a year. She pays rent, a car payment, insur- ance, credit cards and utilities.

“I really don’t know how I’m going to start paying back next month,” Ko- priva said. “I may defer my loans for awhile.”

Kopriva’s loans are all unsubsidized and, if she’s approved for a deferral, the loans will build interest. Subsid- ized loans do not accrue interest during a deferral.

Mark Warner, University of Iowa’s fi- nancial aid director, said his office can assist borrowers in choosing the best repayment plan.

“We let students know if you’re going to pay over a longer period of time, you’re going to pay more inter- est,” Warner said.

Lauren Fabijanski, 18, a freshman studying international affairs at George Washington University, is one of the 1.6 million student borrowers the U.S. Department of Education said will benefit from the new plan.

Fabijanski, of Naperville, Ill., said the reduced income-based repayment plan sounds like one she might like to use. Despite being a new borrower, had never heard of it.

She’s not alone. Of the more than $1 trillion Americans with federal student loan debt, fewer than 450,000 use the current income-based repay- ment plan, according to the White House.

Andrew Gillen, research director for the Center for College Affordabil- ity and Productivity, doesn’t support the income-based repayment plan.

In a recent article, Gillen wrote the plan “is being treated as a free pro- gram in spite of the fact that it could end up costing billions of dollars in a few decades.”

The income-based repayment plan “is trying to fix the problem of stu- dents borrowing too much for col- leges, without stopping students from borrowing too much,” Gillen said.

Fabijanski, who estimated she took out $4,000 in student loans this year, said students are not fully informed about the loan process because the wording is too legal. Fabijanski re- ceives other aid through grants and scholarships.

“A lot of students don’t understand the implications of what they’re doing and how it’s going to affect their bud- gets following graduation,” Fabian- ski said. “They don’t know how they might have to struggle between food, rent, and just loans.”

By DiANA ArriEtA

The Prospector

New incoming UTEP students will need to provide documentation showing they have received the bacte- rial meningitis vaccination no later than Jan. 6, 2012 in order to begin classes for the spring semester, which begins Jan. 17.

A new law meant to protect stu- dents against a disease that can result in brain damage and death, requires new entering students under the age of 30 to receive a vaccination against bacterial meningitis.

The law, known as the Jamie Schan- baum and Nicol Receiving Rights Act, makes Texas the first state to require universal vaccination for college ad- mission. The legislation was prompt- ed by the death of Nicolis Williams, a Texas A&M student, who died as a result of the disease in February 2011.

“I think that passing this law is kind of rigorous since now every student will have to have the vaccination, but in the end, it’s good,” said Mari- ana Bustillos, senior electronic media major.

According to the American College Health Association, the illness is rare, but the rate of meningitis appears to be on the rise for college students.

Studies also show that students who are on the rise for college students. But the rate of meningitis appears to be on the rise for college students.

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Best photos of fall 2011

Photos by Krystal Oblinger, Bob Corral, Sal Guerrero and Veronica Chaparro
Congratulations to Rebecca Montoya, Karina Rodriguez, and Cesar I. Grado for helping us choose the new Miner Gold Card design!

All three students, who participated in the online survey to choose the new design, were selected from among some 4,000 respondents to receive the $100 reward, which will be added to their Miner Gold Cards. They can choose whether to receive their award in either Miner Bucks or Miner Meals. The new design is part of a strategic overhaul of the Miner Gold Card scheduled for 2012.

**REBECCA MONTOYA**

Montoya, an English major who will graduate in December 2012, learned about the contest through her email. She liked the winning design because it featured the blue pick and was “very modern.” She uses her Miner Gold Card for everything from printing, to checking out books in the library, to receiving discounts from area retailers, including the Sun Metro bus service.

**CESAR GRADO**

Grado, who is pursuing his MBA, chose the winning design because it “stood out over all the others, primarily because of the colors.” He admits he does not take advantage of all the Miner Gold Card features, using it primarily for printing and access to the gym. However, with his newly acquired $100 worth of Miner Meals, he will enjoy using it at the UTEP food service outlets for the next several months—and receiving a 10% discount on all food purchases.

**KARINA RODRIGUEZ**

Rodriguez, a junior accounting major, also liked the modern blue pick design, noting that “the pick is what stood out” for her. She uses her card as her access key for work in Student Business Services. She also uses it to get tickets for football games and at the Union Cinema, and likes the discounts that she frequently receives when showing her Miner Gold Card at local businesses.

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GOOD LUCK ON FINALS FROM YOUR DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
Stress builds as finals loom

BY REBECCA GUERRERO
The Prospector

It’s that time of year again for UTEP students to hunker down and pull long hours of study in preparation for their final exams.

It can be a stressful time for some students as they crowd the library. For many freshmen, fall finals can seem like the biggest hurdle during their first year, while for some seniors, finals bring stress along with the pressure of preparing for graduation. No matter what their personal situation is, students have their own way of coping with stress.

“Schedule every part of every day and stick to it,” said Michael Martinez, senior music major. “Every Sunday night, I plan out what I must do for every day of the week. Having my goals out of my mind and on paper helps my organization and focus.”

This strategy echoes the advice from the University Counseling Center, where counselors are used to seeing an upsurge in counsel-seeking students during this time.

“It’s normal to be somewhat anxious. Hopefully, it feels more like the anxiety one feels when rooting for their favorite sports team, and not an anxiety one feels when rooting for their favorite sports team, and not an anxiety one feels when rooting for your game of college football,” said Sherri Terrell, director of the counseling center. “Of course, the best strategy for dealing with test anxiety is to be well prepared, well rested and have a realistic evaluation of your performance history and ability.”

Terrell also recommends scheduling in some down time just as you schedule in study time. Many students find physical activity to be a good way to distance themselves from the world of academia for a while.

“I like to exercise when I’m stressing about finals,” said Valeria Lara, junior pre-nursing major. “It helps to clear my head, and then I study as much as I can and hope for the best. I think finals will probably get a little harder next year when I get into my major work.”

Another tip Terrell suggested was to students to look at the big picture of their academic work and their future career plans.

“It helps to put exams in perspective. Will the results of this test really make or break one’s whole career plan? Do you need an A or just want a B? Some students don’t believe it, but getting a really good night’s sleep is also extremely important,” Terrell said. “Not only will it help a student’s performance, it helps one to deal with anxiety. We teach a number of test-taking strategies and some relaxation techniques that may be helpful.”

Some students such as Marcela Aguayo, freshman music major, already have their own unique ways of de-stressing before a big exam.

“I like to sing along to “Glee” CDs when I’m feeling really stressed,” Aguayo said. “I think for freshmen students, whose lives have become all about school, it’s important to go out and hang out with some friends and have a little bit of fun.”

In addition to students being well organized and not obsessing over studies, Terrell recommended that students give themselves positive self-talks in order to improve performance on the day of the test. Likewise, they should avoid students who are very anxious before exams. She said this is because students tend to imitate the behavior of their peers. Even someone who was well prepared for a test can have his or her confidence shaken by an overly nervous classmate.

Another way to avoid stress, which may be too late for some students, is to distance themselves from the world of academia for a while. For more information, visit utep.edu/tuitionandfees.
Degrees that won’t get you a good job

By Henry Arrambide
The Prospector

With employment opportunities at historic lows for college students and a worrisome 9.1 percent national unemployment rate, graduating students everywhere are feeling the stress of an uncertain future.

Newsweek’s The Daily Beast, released a list of the 20 most useless degrees. The list was compiled by looking at average income growth and projected change in the number of jobs from 2008 until 2018. The results quickly spread to blogs and outlets around the Internet and held some surprises for a few areas of study.

“I don’t understand why journalism would be at the top of the list,” said Jackie Devine, senior multimedia journalism major. “I would think living in a culture where people rely on news on a daily basis, it would be one of the top degrees. Hearing this news is kind of discouraging.”

According to the list, journalism is one of the top fields of study considered most useless due to its poor economic projections. Horticulture, agriculture, advertising and fashion design follow as the five most useless degrees. “I don’t think they are useless majors. It might be harder to get a job with a certain type of degree, but at the same time this degree allows for a lot of intellectual growth,” said Gethsemane Acosta, junior English and American literature major. “There’s interpretation and analysis of data that you learn to do and that can be used as a valuable skill in the workplace.”

Surprising entries among a list filled with majors leaning towards the liberal arts, were chemistry and mechanical engineering technology. “Psychology is a terrible degree to have because it is not profitable,” said Andrea Rangel, junior psychology major. “I didn’t initially know it was so bad, but I’ve always known what I wanted to be, so if I have a passion for it, I don’t care too much.”

The attitude of working hard at what you love is a common theme among students. Despite their degrees being classified as useless or of low profitability, they continue to pursue it.

“I think if you work hard enough at it, there are definitely a lot of opportunities, especially with technology nowadays,” Devine said. “It’s a new face of journalism. What drew me in was its power. It’s important to be a voice for people that don’t have one. I hope to be a reporter for any newspaper in the country.”

That hope keeps students going, despite what current market conditions dictate. “I don’t care what my degree is classified as because at least at the end of the day I’m going to be enjoying my job and I won’t be getting bored or tired of it,” Acosta said. “I love to read and I want to educate and inspire students to be the best they can be.”

Henry Arrambide may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

20 Most useless degrees

1. Journalism  
2. Horticulture  
3. Agriculture  
4. Advertising  
5. Fashion Design  
6. Child and Family Studies  
7. Music  
8. Mechanical Engineering Technology  
9. Chemistry  
10. Nutrition  
11. Human Resources  
12. Theater  
13. Art History  
14. Photography  
15. Literature  
16. Art  
17. Fine Arts  
18. Psychology  
19. English  
20. Animal Sciences

*According to the Newsweek’s The Daily Beast’s The list was compiled by looking at average income growth and projected change in the number of jobs from 2008 until 2018.
Lastly, there are three university banner bearers, one for each commencement, each of whom earned the overall highest GPAs. The candidates are Tracy Kendrick, anthropology major, in the morning, Valerie Faukner, accounting major, in the afternoon and Ashley Howard, nursing major, in the evening.

“It is very important that we refer to these students as candidates,” said Alberto Lopez, assistant vice president for institutional advancement. “The final grades have not come in yet for this semester and so we still do not know if they will remain our banner bearers.”

During last May’s commencement ceremony, UTEP awarded its 100,000th degree and with that, retired the traditional mace, a staff-like object that is carried into the ceremony by the grand marshal. At the upcoming winter commencements a new mace will be used.

UTEP alumnus Beverly Penn, who is also a professor of art at Texas State University of San Marcos, designed the new mace. Students and faculty caught their first glimpse of it during an exhibit from Sept. 10 to Oct. 29 at the Stanley & Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts that ran.

“It is definitely something we are all very excited about,” Lopez said. “This new mace is a symbol of UTEP’s history as well as a symbol of UTEP’s successful future.”

Among the other students graduating is Omar Perez, who will be receiving his RN in Multimedia Journalism. “I am very nervous but excited as well,” Perez said. “I am sad that my time at UTEP is just about done, but at the same time I’m looking forward to moving on and gaining as much experience as I can in my field.”

Though graduation is an exciting time for students, for some that excitement will be short lived as they now tried to land a job in their field.

“The students have worked extremely hard for and we’ve been waiting for a while to finally have a degree,” said Saray Argumedo, senior who is waiting for a while to finally have a job after degree, “said Saray Argumedo, senior.

College of Education
(For graduate students only)
Dec. 9, 2011
6:30 p.m.
Magoffin Auditorium
For more information, please call
747-5783

College of Engineering
Dec. 10, 2011
11:00 a.m.
Magoffin Auditorium
For more information, please call
Logid Wright at 747-5971

College of Health Sciences
(Pre-commencement and graduat-
ate hooding ceremony)
Dec. 10, 2011
3:30 p.m.
Magoffin Auditorium
For more information, please call
747-8564 or e-mail cgangboa@u-
tep.edu

Department of Kinesiology
Dec. 9, 2011
5:30 p.m.
Hall of Champions
For more information, please call
747-8564 or e-mail rmdiaz@u-
tep.edu

College of Liberal Arts
Awards & Hooding
Ceremony
(For honor cord recipients, department award recipients and master’s/doctoral students)
Dec. 8, 2011
7:00 p.m. (Students must arrive at 6:30 p.m.)
Magoffin Auditorium
For more information, please e-mail ycarraa@utep.edu

Military Science
Commissioning Ceremony
Dec. 9, 2011
3:00 p.m.
Union Cinema, Union Building East

School of Nursing
- Graduate Hooding
Ceremony
Dec. 10, 2011
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Union Cinema, Union Building East
For more information, please call
747-7201

School of Nursing - Undergraduate Pin-
ing Ceremony
Dec. 7, 2011
6:00 p.m.
Magoffin Auditorium
For more information, please call
747-7273

College of Science
Dec. 2, 2011
6:00 p.m.
Magoffin Auditorium
For more information, please call
Roxxane Giron 747-5042

UTEP Graduation Ring
Ceremony
(Commemorative rings are available to those who have purchased UTEP rings.)
Dec. 15, 2011
6:00 p.m.
Tomás Rivera Conference Center, Union Bldg. East, 3rd Floor
For more information, please call
747-8600

Alumni Association
Dec. 2, 2011
6:00 p.m.
Peter and Margaret deWetter Center
For more information, please call Alumni Relations 747-8600

MEMINGITS from page A4
mester off from college must receive the vaccination at least 10 days be-
fore the first day of the semester they are enrolled in. Students who have
gotten the vaccination during a five-
year period preceding the start of
classes need not be re-vaccinated.
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Seniors’ college regrets

BY HENRY ARRAMBIDE
The Prospector

With winter commencement right around the corner, graduating seniors are feeling both the stress and joy of reaching the end of their college careers. Getting to this point, however, does not come without a few regrets.

“I would more readily accept the challenges posed in my earlier classes,” said Rebekah Grado, senior English and American literature major. “I most regret skimming information in fundamental courses, because I find myself lacking understanding, or at the very least insight on subjects or works that I visited two or three years ago. I know if I took my basics as seriously as I’ve taken my course studies, I’d feel at least a little ahead of the curve.”

Jorge Curiel, senior digital media production major, is just one of many seniors who has a few ideas on what they would do over again if they had to restart college. Some of their advice for freshman and sophomore students ranges from abstract and academic to simple and practical.

“Leaving your hometown, however, I personally think is a must that I would not change at all,” Curiel said. “You learn a lot about what you are capable of doing when all you have is you. It catalyzes ingenuity, maturity and responsibility.”

Stepping out of your comfort zone to grow as a person is not something Curiel alone supports.

“It wasn’t until my teaching internship semester that I truly learned to value the cynic’s creed to question everything,” said Nick Rodriguez, senior creative writing major. “That’s a scholastic duty no matter what field you’re into.”

Rodriguez believes that too often students don’t challenge themselves or their professors. Doing so would make the class more interesting for the students themselves.

“You learn a lot about what you are capable of doing when all you have is you. It catalyzes ingenuity, maturity and responsibility.”

-Jorge Curiel, digital media production major
If you could start college again, what would you change?

Photos by Candie Herrera, Veronica Chaparro, Justin Stene and Greg Castillo

PAUL MCCUALEY
Senior biomedical science major
“Already did start college all over again. I am studying Biomedical Sciences with the intention of going into a physical therapy post-grad school. As it turned out, my history degree was not all that marketable.”

ERIKA GOMEZ
Senior history major
“If I could go back and change my first year of college, I would focus more on my studies rather than going out to party.”

GUILLERMO VARGAS
Junior geophysics major
“What I would do different if I could start over is to follow my actual degree plan. When I began, I thought it would be interesting to take classes that would be more fun, but I realized that the degree plan is actually set up very good for balancing load.”

ALEJANDRO LARA
Senior microbiology major
“I already changed my degree from engineering to microbiology, so if I had the opportunity to start over I would have started in microbiology to begin with. I would take more classes to begin with and have a concrete plan to do more internships.”

ERICA GARCIA
Junior art major
“I guess I would’ve taken more of my core classes to start off with instead of all the electives I took.”

MARIOQUE IGLESIAS
Senior finance major
“Approach the services that UTEP offers.”

FRANKIE GLOVER
Junior graphic design major
“I think taking a year off is the worst thing to do, it prolongs finishing your degree and life gets in the way.”

RUBEN RASCON
Senior electronic media major
“If I could start college all over again, I would change the Union Services. They are never there when we need them. They would much rather host events that do not support the students.”

ENID FLORES
Senior computer information systems
“Take school more seriously, attend all my classes and definitely turn in all assignments.”

ROBY QUINTELA
Senior psychology major
“I would change my major from psychology to kinesiology.”

PAOLMA FLORES
Senior media advertising
“Take more advantage of all the services UTEP offers to students.”

JESSE LEYVA
Senior business major
“If I would have to start college all over again, I would have taken a different degree in Medical.”

ERIKA GOMEZ
Senior psychology major
“I already changed my degree from engineering to microbiology, so if I had the opportunity to start over I would have started in microbiology to begin with. I would take more classes to begin with and have a concrete plan to do more internships.”
Fashion abroad inspires Ramon Carrasco

A: “My style feels eclectic. It also depends on the day, the weather, the mood, so it ranges from preppy to in-
Laura Mena, senior psychology and art major, bases her outfits on rules that are applied to art and fashion by following color combinations to give her a complimenting look. She shared with The Prospector how her talent and knowledge of art is sometimes reflected in her inspiration for fashion.

Q: What do you like about fashion?
A: “I like that it’s another way of expressing yourself, giving yourself some sense of identity. It’s kind of like an art, but art you wear.”

Q: How do you combine your love for art with fashion?
A: “I find myself following rules that pertain to art, like color combinations, complimenting colors, symmetry and sometimes combining elements, especially with jewelry, like how busy you want your body to look or how simple and plain. So I find myself thinking about those things also with fashion.”

Q: Is your art ever reflected through your outfits?
A: “Not really because my art is more surreal. Maybe just color wise, but not really. I think it’s very different.”

Q: What places do you recommend for finding unique clothing?
A: “There’s nothing in specific. You can find nice clothes and it really doesn’t depend on the price or the brand, you can find it anywhere. You can go from Wal-Mart or a very expensive store. It doesn’t matter, you just have to look around anywhere.”

Q: What do you like to wear on a day you don’t feel like dressing up?
A: “Just jeans and a plain shirt, not like a t-shirt but just a shirt, jeans and tennis shoes.”

Q: Is there a style that you are particularly drawn to?
A: “I try to wear something that’s kind of classy, but at the same time I don’t want to look overdressed for school. I just try to look lady-like but not too overdone. Combining sometimes just a balance between patterns and plain colors and not making it be too much, but still having a combination.”

Natalia Aguilar may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
LOVE IN THE TOWN OF COLLEGE

He's just not that into you? Get over it.

BY BEATRIZ A. CASTAÑEDA

If you have either read the best-selling dating book or seen the movie "He's Just Not That Into You," then you know it is based on the concept that if you have to wonder whether a guy is into you or not, chances are he's not.

We ladies spend countless hours with our girlfriends, on the phone, having lunch or at the coffee shop, analyzing and obsessing over words said and/or meant, and we try to find meaning behind what this or that guy really meant, and ultimately, if he likes us or not.

With the holidays approaching, people are often finding time to be with their loved ones and those they care about. This time of the year evokes happy and warm feelings to be shared with a special person. If you're going to be sharing this with someone, it should be with someone who actually deserves your time.

In the first chapter of the book, authors Greg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo state, "Men find it very satisfying to get what they want. (Particularly after a difficult day of running the world.) If we want it, we will get it. If you don't think you gave him enough time to notice you, take the time it took you to notice him and divide it by half!"

Some women tend to believe that we haven't been rejected and that we can still have him. Our mind has the tendency to believe the most unlikely of things and even if we are shown the proof, we don't believe it. Somewhere deep inside our minds, we know that the person is just not that into us, but we refuse to believe it.

The authors suggest that if you find yourself in this situation liking a guy but getting mixed signals then stop kidding yourself and look for a guy who will be into you. Find someone who will make time for you; someone who will fit into your life and will let you into his.

Behrendt and Tuccillo also said, "If we're really excited about someone, we can't stop ourselves - we want more. If we're friends with someone and attracted to them, we're going to want to take it further!"

So they say that if he's not asking you out, then he's not that into you. Other signs they include in the book are, that he's probably not interested in you if he doesn't return your calls or contacts you. So perhaps you've exchanged numbers, perhaps even signed on the phone. Does he respond within a moderate time and appears happy to talk to you? Does he have anything to discuss with you? Or he says he doesn't have time to call and talk to you. That's nonsense, and the actual truth is that you're not on his mind.

Bethany Marshall, Ph.D., author of "Deal Breakers: When to Work on a Relationship and When to Walk Away," came up with a list of 10 signs to show he's not into you. Other signs they include in their book are, that he's probably not into you. Girls, don't let these guys string you along. He's going to give you a little bit of hope and lead you on, but in the end, he's just not that into you and making empty promises to you. Guys that use these excuses are simply jerks and should be avoided at all costs. You deserve someone who actually into you.

If you're looking for something serious this holiday, then let it come to you. You'll know the signs. You know, the constant text messages, the phone calls and the longing to actually spend time with you and show it. So stop making excuses to yourself and go for someone who will actually like you.

The Prospector

By BEATRIZ A. CASTAÑEDA

December 1, 2011

THE PROSPECTOR

Beatriz A. Castañeda may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
Coney Island, located on 4224 N. Mesa St., is open Monday through Wednesday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Thursday through Saturday until 8 p.m.

BY WILLIAM VEGA

The Prospector

Rene Job said that if he had a nickel for every time a customer tells him a story of the old Coney Island restaurant, he’d have a brand new truck, but it is those types of stories that give the El Paso tradition its reputation, even after an 11-year hiatus.

“There’s four generations of customers that still come here. They remember them. People are very happy that we’ve reopened,” said Job, the owner of the restaurant. “There are stories of people practically in tears because we’ve reopened.”

Coney Island was founded in 1920 by Angelo Saucedo, Job’s grandfather, in Downtown El Paso, just over three miles from its current location on 4224 N. Mesa Street. It stood there for the next 65 years until the bank purchased the block and did not renew the restaurant’s lease. Saucedo owned and sat at the counter regularly up until his death in 1970.

In 1980, a second Coney Island opened on the corner of Mesa Street and Robinson Avenue by Juan Roberto Saucedo, Job’s brother. The two were open at the same time for five years until the original was shut down. Job said the location was ideal for UTEP students in the 1980s, and he hears stories of that restaurant today.

“I get a lot of stories from there because people from UTEP and El Paso High (School) who continued in their studies, graduated from UTEP, are out in their careers now and used to have something to eat there?” Job said. “Now, they bring their kids to this one.”

Job worked at the newer restaurant in high school and while studying business management at UTEP until he graduated in 1990. From 1978-81, he took basic courses at UTEP but decided to work full-time at the restaurant, halting his higher-education career for the time being.

With his brother working in New York, Job also left El Paso to work in Puerto Rico in 1992. His parents then took over the business from 1992-99, until they felt it was time to retire and close the restaurant.

Job returned to El Paso in 2004, but the whole time, Coney Island was still something he wanted to see return. In 2009, with the help of co-owner Ruben Schaeffer, his brother-in-law, he began envisioning the dream a reality.

Job said he decided to get back in the business. “Ruben and I put our heads together. He found the location, and as a matter of fact, my uncle, Hector Saucedo, sells restaurant equipment so we got a lot of things from him,” Job said. “We put everything together, got our ideas, looked up our old menus and recipes and opened Oct. 25 of last year.”

Job said they took their time opening the business, which caused the long delay and changed the menu a bit. They added new entries, such as Mexican plates and hamburgers, deleted some others and, finally, the newest Coney Island was open for business.

Since then, Job and Schaeffer said the place has succeeded by retaining old regulars, while making new ones.

“It’s an opportunity to connect with people who come in for the first time and create an environment that may be you’re not used in, where life isn’t so serious,” Schaeffer said. “It’s a little more laidback and we can reconnect with customers from World War II and even post-World War II who remember the nickel dog highs.”

One connection the restaurant has made is with UTEP, from customers to relatives of the restaurant’s owners.

Both owners said that UTEP president Diana Natalicio and softball head coaches James and Kathleen Rodriguez have made many appearances along with other professors and faculty from the university.

In addition, Juan Roberto was named an Outstanding ‘Ex Student in 2004 and Schaeffer’s daughter, Rachel, played softball at UTEP from 2005-08. Although the restaurant is about a mile and a half away from its previous location on Mesa and Robinson, the owners hope to continue appealing to the UTEP crowd.

"Words on a Wire," a talk show by creative writing professors Benjamin Saenz (left) and Daniel Chacon (right), is now showcasing "Words on a Wire," a talk show by creative writing professors Benjamin Saenz (left) and Daniel Chacon (right).

Although students don’t participate in the show, Saenz hopes to change that in the future.

“Certainly we’ll have a show that features our undergraduate writing students on occasion and we’ll do the same with our graduate program,” Saenz said.

As veteran writers and literary connoisseurs, Saenz said both hosts hope for the show to be a contribution to the literary community. “I see the future of this show as being a kind of important forum of Native American letters to be discussed,” Saenz said.

“It’s not the type of show that’s exclusive to the region. ‘We’re not the type of show that’s going local. We’re going national, but we also have good writers in El Paso and we’ll also feature them as well,” Saenz said.

THE PROSPECTOR

December 1, 2011

VERONICA CHAPARRO / The Prospector

SCOTT CASTLE / The Prospector
From tablets to iPhones, Apps integrate

By Jerry Aldaz
The Prospector

Power is rendered useless if systems do not have the applications and software titles customers want to use. In the mobile realm, ecosytems have developed a defined look and feel through the incorporation of applications. Considered underpowered and outpaced by a fleet of Android phones, the iPhone has managed to overshadow competing devices because Apple focused primarily on the user experience rather than mere processing speed or pixel density.

Considering: Windows 7 phones' rough start since launch, due to their relatively-unknown services and the unpredictable future of Nokia's primary operating system, Symbian, Nokia and Microsoft's recent partnership is a perfect example on how ecosystems either make or break a device. Victims to this unapologetic structure have ranged from HP's Touchpad to Blackberry's Playbook. These well-designed gadgets failed, not because of their technical capabilities, but because of extremely limited App availability.

Declining developer support failed to provide the services consumers have grown to expect from their products. Android-based tablets have managed to produce decent sales because the widely-known Android Market emulates feelings of trust and familiarity within consumers. Conversely, the Kindle Fire is relying on Amazon's deeply-incorporated services, ranging from streaming films to its large selection of e-books, in hopes its $199 Kindle Fire will become the epitome of low-end tablets.

In completing this service utopia, Microsoft and Apple have begun offering apps for their current and upcoming full-fledged operating systems. Much like software one might download from a random website, these computer applications will be collected within a confined location for an effortless experience. In bringing these mobile structures, they hope to bridge connectivity across mobile and full-size devices in order to form a unified ecosystem. This redefined model ultimately benefits both parties; companies obtain user loyalty while promoting available services and encapsulated consumers enjoy the seamless transaction of data while avoiding the hassles of maintaining different systems.

Jerry Aldaz may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

CLASS OF 2011

Thank you God for guiding me to accomplish this goal! Mom and dad, I love you, thank you and this is for you! I will always be proud to be a miner! — Mariel Torres

I thank God first and foremost for providing me the opportunity to complete my education. I thank my mom and dad for their undying support throughout every chapter of my life. Special thanks to the STEM University Transfer Center staff for shaping me into the professional that I am today! Let me start this chapter and begin a new one, with my friends and family right by my side! Thank you all! — Sara Garcia

A special thanks to my parents and sister for always supporting me, my wonderful Kinesiology colleagues, my friends for being there for me, in good times & bad times, and most importantly, my Scholarship donors for providing me a chance! — Rosemary Saucedo

It started off as a dream, now it's a reality! I'm the first one in my family to graduate from college. Thank you for your blessings, I will always be thankful for my professors and inspiration of teaching. I love you professors! I'm going to make you all proud, class of 2011 — DeAngelo Freeman

Gracias a Dios por darme las fuerzas para llegar a este momento. Madre: gracias por tus consejos, sigo tus pasos por siempre. Hermana: gracias por estar ahí al lado y a mis hijas: todo esta vale la pena. Es difícil pero no imposible. “I'm out here!” — Class of 2011

Finally we did it! I'm so happy and grateful for all these years of hard work. Keep close, but many others open! Congratulations People!! — Ana P. Barra

A Dios eres mi guía, con sabiduría y amor Ami nani por todo Todo el apoyo que siempre me proporciones TE AMO NANI Mrs. Recob mi gran inspiración para ayudarte! Mi familia, Abuela, Tita, Guadalupe y EmiMi. Esté es por estar y para ustedes!! — Seenny Zuniga

I'm very grateful for having the opportunity to realize my dreams and with my parents, for having given me the opportunity to study. Thank you for everything! — Ana Paulina Gonzalez

Thank you God for blessing this beautiful journey to accompany Mom, Dad, Chris, Family & Friends for your unwavering love. Dr. S. Dr. Coppell, Dr. Ryan, Dr. Evan are all an inspiration! Go FTUERP, you have brought me so far from the bottom of my heart! — Joan

Thank you God for blessing this beautiful journey to accompany Mom, Dad, Chris, Family & Friends for your unwavering love. Dr. S. Dr. Coppell, Dr. Ryan, Dr. Evan are all an inspiration! Go FTUERP, you have brought me so far from the bottom of my heart! — Rebecca M. Morales

Finally I graduated thinking I'd be stuck here. I want to thank my parents for their support and everything they have done for me. I'm out of here — Jesus Sanchez
I would like to say that 5½ years spent here in UTEP, were definitely some of the best memories I have. Making new friends, learning new stuff, fun and great experiences. For this Thank UTEP. As I start a new chapter in my life, it was here where it all began, defining my future steps and prepared for the real world. I would like to thank to all the professors that I had and teaching me, my UTEP co-workers (Kari-team) and special thanks to all my friends was where with me from beginning to graduation. Los quiero a todos aho.

— Alberto Casena

Le quiero dar Gracias primeramente a Dios y luego a todos mis seres queridos que me apoyaron y me motivaron con mi educación. Los amo.

— Lourdes Maldonado

I Am Vengeance,
I Am The Night,
I AM BATMAN

— Austen Ochoa

Muchos Gracias a mi familia por su incondicional apoyo estos años. Mamí, Papi, Sarah, Fe, Tere y mis 2 gorditos Ester y Victoria. Las Amo. También a mis amigos que han hecho el camino muy diverto. Kashita y Selene. Hicimos la cosa. Congrats all UTEP Grads!

— Alexandra García

Papós, hermanazs. Nunca lo hubiera logrado sin ustedes. Gran parte de este logro les pertenece. GRACIAS.

— Jahziel Villegas

Friends: Gracias por el apoyo.
Thank you all.

— Joel R. Quiroz

TO The Class of 2011 Congrats! Thank you God for giving me the strength and faith to shine for the best. Thank you Mom, brother and all your support! To the ladies y Sigma K1 FMA - I love you girls. Never let a low point hold you back. Keep pushing your goals.

— Teresa Urbina

UTEPR significa familia para mi. No te equivoque al escogerla. Estudiate, seas, apred, gané, perdé, amé, madure.
Gracias AA, NDO, SEAO, BCC. Gracias Papas, Hermanos amigos, Los amo. i CRISTO, partí! ¡Pale!

— Alejandra Valles

— Alejandro E. Valles
The Prospector

Directed by Simon Curtis, "My Week with Marilyn" is lighthearted fun, but ultimately fails to aptly introduce its audience to the depth and insight that Monroe deserves.

The film is based on the book by Colin Clark. He tells of his week-long adventure during the summer of 1956 with Monroe as they worked on the set of "The Prince and the Showgirl.

Clark, hoping to make it into the film industry, takes on a job as a gofer, the third assistant director for the film. Monroe, coached by Paula Strasberg (Zoë Wanamaker), struggles with her performance on set as a method actress. She clashes with her costar Sir Laurence Olivier (Kenneth Branagh), who finds her irritable to work with.

Clark – as many others – falls in love with Monroe. He is young and his determination and naivety give the film an air of first love wonder. In his determination to prove himself, Clark is able to defy the older, more experienced than he. Clark's characterization is underdeveloped for a protagonist, yet in seeking independence as a youthful and stubborn man, he finds himself in humorous situations. In an early scene, for example, he refuses to leave the studio's office until he is offered a job.

Monroe's quick and sharp responses are also refreshing. When she isn't crying in bed, she implements comedic touches to her sayings, like, "Darling, as we are in England, let's say I sleep in nothing but Yardley's lavender." This type of humor resembles what was present in the very movie Monroe was filming at the time. The era is depicted gracefully. England in the 1950s is full of picturesque castles and shops as well as beautiful countryside. The film is shot elegantly. For instance, flashbulbs light Monroe as she descends off the plane while British reporters, neatly tailored in '50s attire, wait to question her. On her first trip to England, accompanied by her third husband Arthur Miller (Dougray Scott), Monroe finds herself alienated and especially insecure. As a result, she is constantly reminded that she is "the greatest actress in the world," a daunting title that she has trouble believing.

Monroe's fits of insecurities, in which she becomes neurotic, are the film's juxtaposing element to an otherwise charming feel. There is little balance in the exposition of this drama. In the midst of Monroe's woes, her relationship with Miller does not compliment the generally breezy mood.

The script, written by Adrian Hodges, except for the occasional awkward transition, works well with the two magnetic and likable leads. Williams steals the show as a radiant Monroe. She portrays the troubled starlet with effortless wit. Williams employs a certain duality in her performance. She conveys Monroe as the sensual charismatic icon and the troubled love-seeking woman. Williams is lighted beautifully. In several scenes her overexposed face looks almost ethereal. Williams, a proven versatile actress ("Blue Valentine," "Brokeback Mountain"), is able to portray Monroe without exploiting her sexual appeal or turning her into a caricature.

A cheerful and fun film, "My Week with Marilyn" boasts incredible talent in its leading lady and beautifully shot scenery, but the overarching charming air of the film is not well paired with the lackluster dramatic toils of the iconic mystical actress. Three out of five picks.

Andres Rodriguez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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Movie Review

Monroe portrayal falls short

By ANDRES RODRIGUEZ

By ANDRES RODRIGUEZ

The Prospector

Directed by Simon Curtis, "My Week with Marilyn" is lighthearted fun, but ultimately fails to aptly introduce its audience to the depth and insight that Monroe deserves.

The film is based on the book by Colin Clark. He tells of his week-long adventure during the summer of 1956 with Monroe as they worked on the set of "The Prince and the Showgirl.

Clark, hoping to make it into the film industry, takes on a job as a gofer, the third assistant director for the film. Monroe, coached by Paula Strasberg (Zoë Wanamaker), struggles with her performance on set as a method actress. She clashes with her costar Sir Laurence Olivier (Kenneth Branagh), who finds her irritable to work with.

Clark – as many others – falls in love with Monroe. He is young and his determination and naivety give the film an air of first love wonder. In his determination to prove himself, Clark is able to defy the older, more experienced than he. Clark's characterization is underdeveloped for a protagonist, yet in seeking independence as a youthful and stubborn man, he finds himself in humorous situations. In an early scene, for example, he refuses to leave the studio's office until he is offered a job.

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Volleyball

Seniors leave lasting impression on the court

BY KRYSTAL OBLINGER

The Prospector

Seances middle blocker Therme Joyce on the court.

Ken Murphy said, "When she is on the court, she keeps our team focused and at a high level no matter who we are facing." Joyce gained her own recognition during her six years with the Miners. During the 2007 season, Joyce was redshirted and became one of the C-USA Commissioner’s Academic medalists and was a Commissioner’s Honor Roll recipient. She repeated this in 2009 after posting 10 service aces and 12 digs for the season. Joyce helped bring it Promotions/USA Travel Team to 2009 with the Global Challenge gold medal in Palm, Croatia.

"This season has been the most fun I have ever had," Joyce said. "I don’t think I could have shared this experience with any other group of girls. It’s been amazing and I think our record reflects our unit and how much we love playing."

Born in Tacoma, Wash., "M.T.," as her teammates call her, was scouted in 2006 by Murphy after being named to the Washington Coaches Association All-State team. Thanks to the networking of her coach during her high school career, Murphy was able to bring her to UTEP.

She graduated with a bachelor in December 2010 with a degree in media and communications and continues her education to gain a masters in fine arts.

"I am so proud to be a Miner, although I am sad, I knew it had to come to an end eventually," Joyce said. "I always want to be involved with volleyball somehow and I’m looking to pursue a career in sports marketing or something like that because I love sports so much I’d like to expand on in some way."

After Murphy brought Joyce on, she was the team’s go-to player, but that she found a way to represent her team as a positive light.

see SENIORS on page 10

RB’s road to graduation took many strides

BY DANIEL ORNELAS

The Prospector

Senior running back Joe Banyard runs past the outstretched arm of an East Carolina defender Nov. 12 at the Sun Bowl.

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After the final match of their career in a 3-0 loss to UCF Nov. 22 at Memorial Gym. With the season ending for the girls’ side, they hung their fans and stand on the court with their team to yell "Miners!" one last time.

“I have a mix of emotions right now because you just want to keep going," Figueroa said. "I always looked forward to the opportunity of coming to the U.S. and play college ball. Today was the end of that chapter!"

Figueroa, a native of Sabana Seca, Puerto Rico, came to UTEP from the U.S. and play college ball. Today was the end of that chapter. “M.T.,“ as her teammates call her, was scouted in 2006 by Murphy after being named to the Washington Coaches Association All-State team. Thanks to the networking of her coach during her high school career, Murphy was able to bring her to UTEP.
The 2011 season was an up and down year for the Miners, but they found a way to win when it counted most. A favorable home schedule put UTEP in good standing in non-conference play; but after a few players went down with injuries midway through conference, the Miners went on a cold streak. They did not win their last six games of the season, going 0-4-2 in that span, but thanks to C-USA expansion to eight teams for the first time, UTEP squeezed into the tournament as a seven seed.

They upset second-seeded Colorado College in a rematch of the two teams’ regular season finale and put their freshman goalie Sarah Dilling to work in the semifinals. The Miners needed extra time to put away Rice, but Dilling stopped three of four penalty kicks to set UTEP up with the host, nationally-ranked No. 4 Memphis in the finals. Dilling stepped up once again, allowing just one goal and saving 19 shots. Senior midfielder Katie Dorman came through in the clutch, scoring the tying goal with minutes remaining to send the game into extra time. In the second extra period, the Tigers struck and the unexpected run was over.

Not much was expected from the 2011 Miners as they were picked to finish tied for last in the C-USA preseason media poll. While they did finish with the third worst conference record, head coach Mike Price put together a team of inexperienced offensive players, while dealing with injuries on his veteran defense. Despite going 2-6 in conference play, UTEP went 3-1 in non-conference on route to a 5-7 record that left them one win away from a second-consecutive bowl berth.

"It was an honor playing with them. To to my team, just remember all the friends and experiences she had as a senior. I’m going to coach a club team here in El Paso, “ Joyce said. “I want to coach a club team here in El Paso. To the girls heading our way, “ Figueroa said. "I’m ready to endure another sub-par season of Mike Price football.

"I’m going to coach a club team here in El Paso," Joyce said. "I want to coach a club team here in El Paso. It was a really hard decision," Figueroa said. "I want to keep studying here at UTEP and they offered me a graduate’s job that would pay for my masters. I could have gone home, but I didn’t want to stop, so I decided to stay here for the next three years."

With the season drawing to a close, the girls look back at what they have accomplished and offer present and future players some of their feelings.

"I am excited for everyone," Joyce said. "To the girls heading our way, I’m looking forward to seeing them play. To my team, just remember all the fun we had and that they need to go get it; they’ll know what that means."

"My girls, I love you," Figueroa said. "I want them to keep fighting and never give up. I’m going to be here for them if they need me and it was an honor playing with them. To the girls who have the dream to be where we are, never let up. Mistakes are going to happen, but you don’t always have to be perfect."

Figuraroa wishes the team the best and that she will never forget the friends and experiences she had as a Miner.

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Women, men taking different routes to begin season

BY KRISTY OLBINGER & FRANKIE RODRIGUEZ

The Prospector

With just seven games remaining—until Conference USA play, the Miner women are off to a 6-0 start for the season, which is tied for the best start in school history with the 1996-97 team and the longest in head coach Keith Adam’s tenure. “We have learned a few things off of last season,” Adams said. “This is a really close match and I think with the team that we have now, we’ll prove that we can do it.”

Adams said that along with taking each game one at a time, defense and rebounding will be the first step to entering these match-ups. “Right now, I’m just focusing on us because there are so many things we have to improve on,” Adams said. “In our past games, we defended and rebounded well, which helped us play well, and because of that, I think that sets us up for good things to happen this season.”

UTEP has already beaten Denver, a team they lost to last season on the road, and will be facing other stiff competition away from the Don Haskins Center prior to conference play. They will visit New Mexico Dec. 10 in Albuquerque and Arizona State Dec. 28 in Tempe. The Lobos, at 2-4, have shown they can play defense, allowing only 55.7 points per game. The Sun Devils, with a record of 4-1, have an even better defensive presence, allowing 52.2 points. That type of defense is what Adams and her players hope to accomplish by the time they play those games.

“Execution and defense is what we are really working on and the reason for that is that harder you play on defense, the easier offense comes,” head coach Tim Floyd said. “It was a very idealistic point of view in terms of going into this with all you guys and still thinking we have done the right thing long term. Hopefully we will look back at this for years to come and say it was a necessary part in terms of establishing a long term program.”

With that said, UTEP will begin a difficult stretch in their schedule during the winter break, starting with a home contest at 3 p.m. Dec. 11 against NSU. The Miners are also looking forward to Dec. 14 as they head to Nevada for the chance to knock off ranked and current-No. 20 UNLV after they upset top-ranked North Carolina Nov. 26 in Las Vegas. “It is tough knowing where we are right now to go on the road to tough games like…UNLV, who just beat the number one team in the nation, but we are up for the task,” sophomore guard Michael Perez said. “Coach thought we weren’t up for it, he would not have scheduled the games.”

The Hawaiian Airlines Diamond Head Classic is a tournament this team is anxious for in terms of evaluating themselves. Their first game will take place Dec. 22 in Honolulu against Clemsons, who are 3-2 so far. “Hawaii would be a good start for us as well. We play Clemson the first game and that is going to be another tough matchup,” Perez said. “We feel like we are excited for that and we basically just have to stick to our game plan, getting support from our fans.”

Some other notable games that UTEP will have will be Dec. 28 at the Don Haskins Center in the Bank of the West Classic and against Colorado State. They are currently 4-2 and are coming off an 85-73 victory over UT-San Antonio, who beat the Miners in their season opener at home.

UTEP will also head to Marshall in their Conference USA opener Jan. 4 with the Thunder herd at an undefeated 5-0 so far. Despite the slow start, the Miners feel they can beat anybody in the way and will only improve as the season progresses. “We aren’t using (inexperience) as an excuse. It is more of a fact everybody is young, “ junior forward Victor Uribe said. “As long as we keep learning, I think we will be all right.”

Head coach Tim Floyd