Students struggle with financial burden
As debt mounts, grad school seems to be a distant option

BY JASMINE AGUILERA
The Prospector

According to the Project on Student Debt, two-thirds of college graduates take out student loans and have an average of $25,000 worth of debt. Oftentimes, students do not qualify for free financial aid from the government because their parents make more than the specified income level, but at the same time, they do not have the resources to pay for school and must take out student loans or find other means.

“My step dad earns about a $100,000 a year, so I don’t qualify for free financial aid,” said Zuzim De Leon, junior biology major. “But it’s not like we keep it all there. There are bills to pay. He’s still in debt from what he was paying for his son’s cars so a lot of what he earns goes towards that. Also, the house payment is huge, not to mention credit cards and our cars.”

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) does not take into consideration credit card, mortgage or car payments or any other debt when awarding financial aid.

“Last semester, we paid for my classes with my mom’s credit card,” De Leon said. “That seems bad, but at least this way we’ll pay it off little by little. It was taken out of my mother’s credit card because she didn’t want it to affect me. I’m guessing by the time I graduate, I’ll be about $20,000 in debt, but it depends because I plan on getting a part-time job to help at least a little bit.”

De Leon originally wanted to become a doctor, but because of her financial situation, she has decided to change her plans.

“Because of the money, I switched to nursing,” she said. “It takes so much less time to graduate than going straight for a PhD.”

De Leon plans to graduate next year and hopes to start working right away so that she can save money and then go back to school and become a doctor.

“It’s quite upsetting when I meet someone who gets everything paid for but slacks off and doesn’t appreciate it,” De Leon said. “There are plenty of other people that actually want a future for themselves that would gladly use that money on their education.”

Roxan Hernandez, sophomore pre-nursing major, is also in a similar situation.

“I didn’t get free financial aid because my dad made about $250 more than he usually did year round,” Hernandez said. “So I had to take two loans to pay for school and then I still had to pay another $600 out of pocket because the loan wasn’t enough. For the academic year, I ended up taking out about $18,500 in both subsidized and unsubsidized loans and this just has to continue for another two years until I finish my requirements.”

Hernandez said the financial burden will be a deciding factor in whether she goes to graduate school.

see FINANCIAL on page 4
Inside my community

By Justin Steen

It’s New Year’s Eve in El Paso and everywhere else. Yes, we’re all excited, but you wouldn’t think so by the looks of it. People are standing around, watching fireworks, loved ones sharing a kiss...or not. To ring in the New Year with a burst of excitement, the city and university are missing an opportunity. The city and university are missing an opportunity to bring in the New Year here in El Paso. Why not start a new tradition after party similar to Minerpalooza where students and families who attend. Dur-
Perez is hoping that once she joins university, said. “But that is for the future. I am going to need another $2,000 so I could pay for the fees. Sandra Perez, junior mechanical engineering major, is one of those students. “I am not getting financial support from my family, so I got $1,700 in savings, but I still have to take out loans to pay for things like maintenance on my vehicle, paying my cell bill on time and I hardly have extra money to do fun things like go out to a movie and stuff.”

If pursuing a graduate degree, Perez is hoping that once she joins university, she will be able to get her master’s degree with the GI Bill. “To be eligible for a Pell Grant, a student’s annual family income must be below $40,000,” Vinage, senior digital media production major, said, “she get most of her school paid for by her financial aid because her mother is a single parent, which just below the income line. “I have not had to take a student loan out yet, but I have a feeling that I might have to in the near future,” Vinage said. “As of right now, I am working part time at a store at the mall with not enough hours I lose at home, but I struggle to pay for things like maintenance on my vehicle, paying my cell bill on time and I hardly have extra money to do fun things like go out to a movie and stuff.”

March
2 Chemistry and Computer Science Building grand opening
3 Project Move
4-4 Monster Jam
12-16 Spring Break (No classes; University open March 12-15)
*NOTE: Not all professors/officials will be on campus during Spring Break
16 Spring Break Holiday (University closed)
31 Cesar Chavez Day (No classes, University open)

April
6 Spring Study Day (No Classes, University Open)
15 Honors Convocation

May
2-4 Opportunity Days
4 Dead Day (No Classes, University Open)
12 Spring Commencement

The Prospector January 17, 2012

Savij Wijesuriya, left, of UTEP/ Justi Flores Perugia, director of PAND, and Kevin M. De Cock, director of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s Center for Global Health. “It’s not a surprise that in Oct- ober of 2010 cholera spreaded a little ground,” said Kevin M. De Cock, director of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s Center for Global Health. “Just 10 months after the devastating earthquake, it found footholds to develop into one of the largest epidemics in history.” Cholera spread quickly through Haiti and its neighboring coun- try, the Dominican Republic. As of Dec. 25 there have been a reported 740,000 deaths in Haiti and 351 in the Dominican Republic. More than half a million people on Hispaniola have had the disease. Even with preventive measures in place that promote hygiene education and clean-water programs, officials have yet to stop the outbreak.

World Health Organization’s presidential and control strategies, literally thousands of lives have been lost,” De Cock said. “However, even with these measures, Haiti continues to see 100 to 200 cholera cases daily, and we must expect more of such a large number per day with the onset of rainy season a few months from now.”

Savij Wijesuriya, chief of UMEC’s Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Section, has led the charge against cholera in Hispaniola. He spoke about the need for a stronger water and sanitation infrastructure to help stop the spread of disease. “Cholera is a disease that defies poverty, and it has done so historically and does today,” Wijesuriya said. “The investment in infrastructure is absolutely essential.”

Wijesuriya’s research has found that simple lifestyle changes, such as hand washing, can prevent the diarrheal disease by up to 64 percent. An estimated 25 percent of people in urban areas of Haiti are connected to a wa- ter supply. The rest of the population fetch water from the nearest water supply and must store it, which Wije- suriya says increases likelihood of water contamination.

Since March 2010, many countries and organizations have committed billions of dollars to help Haiti in its post-earthquake relief efforts. The United States contributed more than $3 billion, and the Inter-American Development Bank has committed $63 billion.

“While the current presence of cholera in the region is a matter of importance to the neighboring countries, said Mirta Corey, director, of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization. “The call of action today is not only to gain control but to kick off cholera from the continent, which is now the stronghold disease in Hispaniola.” President Michael Joesph Mottahed of Haiti and Leonel Fernández of the Dominican Republic spoke to the conference via video.

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Students start program to monitor UTEP’s energy efficiency

BY JASMINE AGUILERA

The Prospector

In a meeting that took place November of last year, three engineering students presented a plan titled the "UTEP Energy Dashboard System." The plan involved setting up dashboards on each building across campus that would monitor energy consumption.

The plan will now take effect this year with the help of UTEP’s Green Fund, which provided the students with a grant worth approximately $30,000.

There is already a prototype in place on the University Library. Students can read the amount of energy consumption through the energy dashboard website, energydashboard.utep.edu. The site will show a graph that displays how much energy is used each day at different times of the day.

The project began with electrical engineering graduate students Stephan Hempel, Ryan Price and Pablo Rangel.

"Since we were all electrical engineering majors, we found this idea feasible," Hempel said. "The university does not have a project like this yet and we felt we could apply all of our research."

Price said that this project gives students a chance to get the knowledge that they gained in class to work.

"Most students don’t actually get to practice what they learn until they start working," Price said. "But we had the lucky opportunity to gain experience while we were still in school."

Hempel, the project manager and systems engineer, along with Price and Rangel as research assistants began the proposal for the Green Fund in the summer of 2011. The Green Fund Grant Making Committee approved and awarded them the grant.

"It was everything the GF had in mind," said Kris Johnson, Green Fund founder. "This is our first official project from the GF so we want this to be a success and we have every hope that it will!"

The Green Fund raises up to $40,000 a year through a fee that charges each student $3 per semester as part of their tuition. The money is then awarded to students who create proposals for environmental innovations on campus.

"I think it is so great that students now have the opportunity to put their ideas to practice," said Ricardo Pineda, faculty advisor and director of the Systems Engineering Program.

Theresa Provencio, systems engineering graduate student, hopes this project will encourage the UTEP community to be conscious of the amount of energy they use on campus.

"I think this idea is really great," Provencio said. "This will give people accountability for the amount of energy they use and maybe it could be an incentive for them to cut back."
KICKING + BALLS = FUN

The Spring Season starts soon! Join a team or form your own.

More info at: suncitykickball.com

Kicking + Balls = Fun

Designing The Future

Carnival inspired ducks help student win Orbit gum’s competition

Question of the week

What are your goals this semester?

Photos by Justin Stiene

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Bonilla said the hands shaking symbolized someone hiring another for a job.

Bonilla said his work ethic is a reflection of his parents, who had pushed him since his younger years to get an education and hoped to give their children a better future. "My motivation was Fort Bliss and the military population we have here. It’s a tribute to my aunt because she’s in the military," Bonilla said.

"I tried to make the design like… to keep working and let my work take over," Bonilla said. "I’m not going to stop working and let my work speak for me whenever it’s going to take me."
CES debuts anticipated tech gear

After quarterly results for the fiscal first quarter of the fiscal year ended March 31, 2012, Sony announced all-new gaming software for its handheld PlayStation Vita (February 2012). The Vita, which is a slim, rectangular-shaped device with a 5-inch OLED screen, touch functionality, and dual cameras, is designed to offer a more immersive gaming experience than its predecessor, the PlayStation Portable (PSP) Vita (February 2012). The Vita also features wireless connectivity, allowing players to connect with others around the world and play together in real-time. In addition, the Vita is equipped with the PlayStation 3’s processor and graphics capabilities, providing enhanced graphics and faster performance.

The Vita’s release date was set for February 2012, with the device available for pre-order in the United States and Europe. Sales were expected to begin in mid-February, with the device expected to sell for around $400 in the United States and Europe. The Vita was also expected to support a wide range of games, including third-party titles, as well as Sony’s own PlayStation Now service.

The Vita’s success was crucial for Sony, as the company had been struggling financially in recent years. The Vita was expected to help Sony reclaim its position as a leader in the gaming industry, and it was seen as a key component of the company’s overall strategy to revitalize its gaming division.

The Vita’s release was heralded as a major event in the gaming industry, with many analysts predicting it would be a major factor in the company’s recovery. However, despite initial excitement, the Vita struggled to gain a significant market share, and its launch was marred by issues with the device’s battery life and overheating problems. It was also criticized for its high price point and limited game library.

Despite these challenges, the Vita was a significant achievement for Sony and a major step forward in the evolution of handheld gaming. It helped to establish the company’s position in the gaming market and paved the way for future innovations in the field.

### References

- Sony announces PlayStation Vita (February 2012)
- Sony PlayStation Vita release date announced (February 2012)
- Sony PlayStation Vita sales figures (March 2012)
- Sony PlayStation Vita review (April 2012)
- Sony PlayStation Vita launch event (February 2012)
- Sony PlayStation Vita player ratings (May 2012)
**Women’s Basketball**

**Reeling Pirates head to the Don**

By FRANKIE RODRIGUEZ

Freshman forward Justin Woodburn slams to dunk the ball on a fast break against SMU Jan. 14 at the Don Haskins Center.

"I continue to tell people that we have to take care of business first to have a chance at this conference and to have a chance at post-season," senior forward Gabrielle McCullah said.

**Reeling Pirates head to the Don**

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The Pirates are in the midst of a 3-game losing streak overall, 0-3 in Conference USA.

East Carolina is averaging 72.5 points per game with junior guard Blighard Paul leading the team in scoring, averaging 17 points per game. Senior forward Danielle McCormick is just behind at 13.6 points per game. East Carolina has struggled on the road this season, winning just one away game and another at a neutral site, while UTEP has won 19 of its last 20 conference home games.

They are a good team as far as I know. They have always been a competitive team. We don’t have the guy inside. We have a lot of guards on our team. We are going to have to stay because certain teams can just go inside and get a lot of back-cuts so you have to stay in defensive mode, any time can any night."

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The first half of the game was a different story. The Miners only made 43.9 percent of their shots attempted in the first half compared to 51.2 percent in the second half. They capitalized on points off turnovers in the second half with a total of 20 when they only had seven points off turnovers to begin the second half. UTEP scored 27-24 in the 2nd.

"We had a blown game like this. They punished us extremely well. I think that was one of our lowest half-point totals," Floyd said. "What helped change the game for us were the picks and steals by freshmen and forward John Bohannon. Vallozzi had to use more tactical baskets in the second half.

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- Indoor Soccer Arena
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- Sand Volleyball Courts*
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- Competitive Pool & Recreational Pool*

*Available Late Spring 2012

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**Intramurals Spring 2012**

**Spring 2012 Fitness Programs**

**January 17th to April 30th - No Classes (March 12-17) Spring Break Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>INSTRUCTOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEIGHT TRAINING</td>
<td>6:00-7:00 am (MWF)</td>
<td>Cardio Gym</td>
<td>David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONDITIONING (20 min)</td>
<td>11:30-12:15 pm (MWF)</td>
<td>Basketball Ct.</td>
<td>Leo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPINNING (20 min)</td>
<td>12:30-1:30 pm</td>
<td>Mac Ct.</td>
<td>Christina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIRCUIT TRAINING (12 min)</td>
<td>2:00-3:00 pm</td>
<td>Cardio Area</td>
<td>Christina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZUMBA</td>
<td>4:15-5:15 pm</td>
<td>Mac Ct.</td>
<td>Zara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YOGA</td>
<td>5:20-6:15 pm</td>
<td>Mac Ct.</td>
<td>Maria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BODY SCULPTING</td>
<td>6:15-7:15 pm</td>
<td>Basketball Ct.</td>
<td>Javier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPINNING (20 min)</td>
<td>6:00-7:00 am</td>
<td>Basketball Ct.</td>
<td>Kevin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPINNING (20 min)</td>
<td>7:15-8:15 am</td>
<td>Basketball Ct.</td>
<td>Kevin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PILOTES</td>
<td>9:00-10:00 am</td>
<td>Mac Ct.</td>
<td>Rosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ULTIMATE ABS</td>
<td>10:10-11:00 am</td>
<td>Mac Ct.</td>
<td>Rosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLIMB FIT</td>
<td>10:00-11:00 am</td>
<td>Climb Gym</td>
<td>Ana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VINYASA YOGA</td>
<td>12:30-1:30 pm</td>
<td>Mac Ct.</td>
<td>Jane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HATHA YOGA</td>
<td>3:00-4:00 pm</td>
<td>Mac Ct.</td>
<td>Megan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZUMBA</td>
<td>4:15-5:10 pm</td>
<td>Mac Ct.</td>
<td>Zara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KARDIO KICKBOXING</td>
<td>5:15-6:15 pm</td>
<td>Mac Ct.</td>
<td>Nellie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YOGA</td>
<td>12:00-1:00 pm</td>
<td>Mac Gym</td>
<td>Julie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZUMBA</td>
<td>1:15-2:15 pm</td>
<td>Mac Gym</td>
<td>Julie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Outdoor Adventure Program**

**Spring 2012**

- January 28 - Ski Apache Trip
- February 4 - Ski Apache Trip
- February 11 - Ski Apache Trip
- March 10-16 - Goose Island State Park Trip

- April 14 - Dog Canyon Trip
- April 20-22 - White Sands Women’s Trip
- May 18-20 - Taos Box Trip

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**Intramurals Spring 2012**

**EVENT**

- Basketball
- Bowling
- Free Throes
- 3-Point Shoot Out
- Indoor Soccer
- Miniature Golf
- March Madness Free Throws
- March Madness 3-on-3
- Racquetball
- Indoor Bballon (Bike, Run)
- Softball
- Indoor Soccer Obstacle Course
- March Madness 3-on-3
- March Madness 3-on-3
- Table Tennis
- Dodgeball
- Sand Volleyball
- Ultimate Frisbee

**DEADLINE**

- Jan. 25
- Feb. 8
- Feb. 15
- Feb. 22
- Feb. 29
- March 5
- March 1
- March 2
- March 5
- March 6
- March 7
- March 21
- March 26
- March 26
- March 28
- March 30
- April 4
- April 9
- April 18
- April 25

**START DATE**

- Jan. 30
- Feb. 8
- Feb. 15
- Feb. 22
- March 5
- March 1
- March 2
- March 5
- March 6
- March 7
- March 21
- April 2
- March 26
- March 26
- March 28
- March 30
- April 4
- April 11
- April 23
- April 25

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**Exercise Room Orientation Spring Semester**

Monday, January 23: 6:30-7:30 pm
Wednesday, February 1: 3-4 pm
Tuesday, February 7: 4-5 pm
Friday, February 10: 9-10 am

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**Climbing Gym**

**OPEN CLIMB**

- Tuesdays & Wednesdays: 11:00 am-2:00 pm
- Monday - Friday: 4:00 pm-7:00 pm
- Saturday: Noon-1:00 pm
- Closed

**BELAY SCHOOL**

- Friday: 2:00 pm-4:00 pm
- Saturday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
- Closed

**EQUIPMENT RENTAL**

- Mon, Tues, & Fri: 2:00 pm-6:00 pm
- Sat: 10:00 am-1:00 pm
- Wed & Sun: Closed

**CLIMB FIT**

- Tuesday & Thursday: 6:00-7:00 am (MWF)
- 11:30-12:15 pm (MWF)
- 12:30-1:30 pm
- 4:15-5:10 pm
- 5:15-6:15 pm
- 6:15-7:15 pm
- 12:00-1:00 pm
- 1:15-2:15 pm

**All registration fees are $25. Additional Classes: $15**

(Must be a member of the Student Recreation Center)

Saturday classes FREE for current student, faculty & staff SRC MEMBERS.

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**Building Hours**

**Spring/Fall**

- M-Thu: 5:30 am - 10:00 pm
- Fri: 5:30 am - 8:00 pm
- Sat: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Sun: Noon - 5:00 pm

**Summer**

- M-Thu: 5:30 am - 9:00 pm
- Fri: 5:30 am - 7:00 pm
- Sat: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Sun: Noon - 5:00 pm

**Holiday Hours**

- Mon - Fri: 5:30 am - 7:00 pm
- Sat: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Sun: Noon - 5:00 pm

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Web: http://www.utep.edu/rsd