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“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.”

- Henry David Thoreau
Del hola al adiós

BY FERNANDA LEÓN

La despedida, es en muchos casos, ocasiones un factor muy importante que nos lleva a no tomar ni malas ni buenas decisiones sino simplemente a no terminar de conocerlo lo suficiente. Este año me toca despedirme no solamente de lo que representó un trabajo y experiencia en el ámbito del periodismo para mí, sino de un grupo de personas que compartieron pocas o varias experiencias conmigo y que se tomaron el tiempo de conocernos. Todas estas personas con muchas ganas de hacer las cosas bien y con un talento innato. A pesar del momento de reali- zar su trabajo. Cada personalidad diferente al grado que solo, escuchar entre mis compañeros que para trabajar en esta publicación uno tenía que estar loco. Es un secreto al que no, cada una de estas personas se volvió parte de mi día diario por un tiempo aproxi- mado de un año. Desde la cháchara con personalidad dulce pero con un toque de voz bas- tale fuerte sobre, a final de cuentas, fue la insistencia y una gran parte del motriz por el que yo formaba parte de este grupo: la lástima (que para nada es gordita) que se la pasaba fumando y tomando una actitud sin importancia pero que en realidad se interesaba por todos y siempre estaba atento a lo que le decía, la chica que tomaba las fotos más bonitas de la ciudad y así, una multi- tud de personalidades. Por otro lado, las personas que ha- cen que esta publicación sea posible, resultaron ser mucho más intere- santes y lindas de lo que me imaginé. Desde la jefa con la sonrisa y el ánimo más bonito de todos hasta la jefa con el corazón más bonito que se la pasaba regalando al hippe por no saber diseñar. Podría hablar una infinidad de la gente que llegue a conocer mucho (y no tanto…) de todo lo que aprendí siendo parte de “The Prospector”. Pero la gran alegria y la satisfacción personal que me da haber formado parte de este equipo, no tiene precio ni lugar. Las personas, el estrés, las risas, las plantas y las historias con las que tenía que cumplir semanalmente y que, en muchas ocasiones, se volvi- eron una preocupación en conjunto con todo lo que tenía que hacer de clases fueron parte de mi mejoría como escritora y sin duda alguna una de las mejores experiencias que la Universidad de Texas en El Paso le deja a mi persona.

Fernanda Leon is an MMT student at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Thank you to The Prospector

By Maria Esquinca

Journalism was never my first op- tion. My first dream was to be a doctor. I wanted to cure cancer and entered UTEP majoring in biology. I considered political science for a while, then I majored in creative writing. Finally, after fighting the urges in my head, I settled on jour- nalism. I thought it be a reasonable compromise. It took me two years before I was given a chance by the newspaper. In fact, my very first published item in the newspaper was before I was hired, I was a Letter to the Editor, that criticized the way women's bodies were being objectified into shapes for the Fashion issue. I remember the first article I wrote, it was about a two-story commercial residence building called The Mix. I interviewed the owner, Octavio Go- mez, who also owns Crave and In- dependent Burgers. I remember the feeling of ale. I remember those first spark of awe, to be listened to and to listen. I sit inside Village Inn, an uncertain girl, taking her first, pre- carious steps into writing. It took me hours to figure it out, to get it just right.

One year, and 70 articles later, I’m still unsure. Graduation looms over me like a giant, open-ended question, but I leave a better person, who has grown, but still has much to learn. I will forever be thankful to The Prospector for all the invaluable les- sons I have learned while working here. It made me disciplined. It al- lowed me to give a voice to the voice- less. It gave me the freedom to pursue stories that mattered to me. It taught me there are gatekeepers that hold the truth, and as journalists, we constant- ly have to fight for the truth. It taught me the importance of journalism, it gave me the reason and the means to write with purpose and meaning. I have so many people to thank, some of them here, some of them gone.

I want to thank Jasmine Aguilar, for sitting with me and going through edits. For still taking the time to sit with me, when you visited El Paso, af- ter you came back from your intern- ship in Dallas. I’ve learned so much from you.

I want to thank Lorain Ambrocio for giving me a chance at The Pros- pector. It was your recommendation that got me in. Thank you for not cen- soring me while you were editor-In- chief. For the beautiful freedom you gave me to pursue stories that mat- tered to me, and for letting me voice my opinion through columns. I want to thank Kathy, for her ad- vice, patience and guidance. I want to thank Veron and Isabel, for your charm and humor. I want to thank Marcie, for laugh- ing with me. For making my day a little better with your genuine and comforting “Hi’s.”

I want to thank David for taking the time to show me how Adobe Au- dition works, and for showing me all the cool tricks you can do to get better audio.

I want to thank the advertising team for making the newspaper possible. I want to thank the editorial team, Luis, Jacob, Javier, Michaela, Jose, and Alonso, for sacrificing your Mondays for pub- lication night. For leaving at night, tired and steep deprived, after only the cats remain at UTEP, because we believe in the importance of the newspaper.

I want to thank my journalism pro- fessors and TAs, Zita Arrocha, Da- vid Smith, Andrew Kennis, Lourdes Chacon, Luis Hernandez and Aaron Montes, because your lessons and better watered my writing and reporting.

I want to thank UTEP PR, for teaching me that there’s gatekeepers to the truth, and for giving me insight into the bureaucratic way in which institutions work.

I want to thank all the people I in- terviewed and who took the time to speak with me.

As I write my last column, I can’t help feeling perplexed by the odd juxtapo- sition of being surrounded by the familiar, yet looming over me is the finality of tonight. I leave, comforted by my memories and lessons I’ve learned, they will follow me forever.

Thank you Prospector.

María Esquinca may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.
I will ramble on

University life is weird, not in an inan-

ic way, but in a way that has defied all ex-

pectations I had.

To begin, I didn’t start with journalism

or remotely associated with it. Like

many before me, I was a starry-eyed

freshman with delusions of greatness

in an exciting field such as health sci-

ences or possibly law.

My passion of preference was medi-

cal school and the allure of being a doc-

tor. I never did decide, but at the time I

felt that pediatric surgery was my call-

ing, after all, I had been a very sickly

cild growing up, so it made sense. At least it did for me.

Anyway, I started in fantastic fas-

tion; I had good grades and was fairly mor-

bologically getting out of UTEP as quickly as possible and on to

med school. It’s important to point out that there are plenty of

bright and stupid people who try to achieve. You don’t

really dictate the pace; you like to

think that you do, but once you actu-

ally start taking on some of the upper

division classes, then you quickly re-

alize that you are not in the mercy of pro-

fessors and the such.

Surprisingly, I prevailed with little
damage to my grades. Of course, it

wasn’t perfect 4.0 territory, but I was

fairly decent through it all and had

good hopes for the future.

Around year of two of the adven-
tures, things got bad and a chaotic

chaos took hold. I would love to

say that I had a fantastic reason to

quit, but the reality was that I just sort

of dropped out of college. I no longer fit a

passion for medicine, and I began drag-

ging classes along with the non-

vacation effort needed to start.

It was both an interesting and scari-

sy time in my collegiate career. I could

continue with the science path and

eventually end up with a degree in

something. I would have still been a

college graduate and in the science

field. Sure, nothing would have guar-

anteed that I would have loved it or

made any decent money out of it, but it

was a hell of a lot better than just

dropping out.

The problem was that I needed to

make a quick decision, the class work

was not going to get any easier, and I

could jeopardize my academic standing

if I began dropping classes or failing.

After some soul searching, I decided to

top with the science and focus on something else. The

very next week I changed my status to gen-

eral studies and began my journey in

search of a new meaning in my aca-
demic life. I am not saying this was

only one prob-

lem, that didn’t happen.

I was wise enough to change my

degree, but after that I was lost and

didn’t know what I was going to do.

For the better part of three years

(being a year of high school and my first

two university years) I had been dead

set on a goal that I thought was every-

thing for me. This period of my life

is actually rather scary, as the lack of direction almost forbade a feeling of

confidence or personal growth. I mean, but at the time it felt like it.

I spent a considerable amount of

time, which to this day I still can’t

bring myself to accept, trying and

avoiding everyone that cared about me. I would lie, claiming that gradua-
tion was just around the corner and

such things.

Eventually everyone caught on,

but the only one that confronted me

about it was my mother. As most cas-
ing mothers do, she proceeded to tell

me I was an idiot, but that the situ-

ation was manageable. I was still

the same person; I had just deviated from

the path a bit.

To summarize a bit, I eventually

settled on journalism out of my love

for sports; or so I thought at the time.

Through some matter of luck, faith

or destiny (whatever you want to be

called), I landed on The Prospector’s
doorfront. I had nothing to offer,

didn’t even have the decency of print-

ing a resume. But due to some strange

reason, my boss decided to bring me

on as an intern. From there I moved

up to copy editor and the rest has

been pretty much history.

This column is not supposed to be

some moral good story that lifts your

spirits. If anything, you can look at it

as a weird tale of how things worked

out for one graduating senior.

Life has a way of working out some-

times, you still have to bust you ass,

but you have the right attitude to

work out.

I would like to thank everyone

at The Prospector staff for everything

they have shown me. My editors that

showed me the ropes of journalism.

My fellow reporters that helped and

inspired me to be a better writer, and

my boss who gave a random guy a

chance to prove himself.

It’s been fun, weird at times, but

fun.

Bria Monette is a 2012 graduate of the university of Southern

Mississippi.

Program aims to aid African-American and Hispanic males on campus

By BRIAN GONZALES

The Prospector

In July of 2015, the Student En-

gagement and Leadership Center

awarded a two-year grant from the

Texas Higher Education Coordinat-

ing Board for minority male initia-

tives. The grant was the major step

toward the creation of UT El Paso’s Male

Empowerment Network, Corey Bai-

ley, director of SILC, launched the

program with the goal of aiding in

coming freshmen of African-American

and Hispanic backgrounds as they

transition into the college life.

The program sets freshmen up with

a mentor, who will help them with dif-

ferent aspects of college life.

“The intent was to help, what they

set up the gaps,” Bailey said. “Afric-

an-American and Hispanic males do

not graduate at the same rates as their

counterparts or white or female stu-

dents. So, this program was designed
to help that.”

According to the Pew Research Center, Hispanics are attending col-

lege at an all-time high. In 2013, 2.2

million Hispanics were enrolled in

college. It is a 205 percent increase

from the number in 1982 when only

729,000 Hispanics were enrolled in post-

secondary education.

Even though the number of His-

panics in college is at an all-time

high, the graduation rates of this

population still lags behind. Among

Hispanics between the ages of 25-29

only 15 percent have a college degree,

compared to a 40 percent of whites

and 40 percent of Asians. African-

Americans are similar to Hispanics in

that 20 percent in this demographic

have a college degree.

The Pew Research Center also pub-

lished a study in which female college

enrollment for females male enroll-

ment. The numbers, from 2012, claim

that 71 percent of women enrolled in

college after high school, compared to

61 percent of males.

The MEN program looks to ad-

dress these trends by reaching out to

students while they are still seniors in

high school and is they become

freshmen in college, providing sup-

port in all areas of their lives.

“The outcomes associated with it

(the MEN program) are around helping

these young men establish a stronger

connection to the university and also

gain knowledge around univer-

sity resources that can aid them in

their academic and personal success,” Bailey said.

The program, which started in Au-

gust at the beginning of the fall se-

mester, will have eight mentors per

semester. Twenty-four mentors will

be divided among the eight in the first

year, while the goal is to increase the number of mentors to 60 by the sec-

ond year.

Currently there are six members, who receive monetary compensation at least during the life of the grant. MEN is still looking for two more mentors, who must fulfill certain qualifications. A junior or senior class see MEN on page A4
The hope is that this becomes one of the premium mentoring programs on campus.

Corey Bailey, Director of the Student Engagement and Leadership Center

“At this point it’s not a matter of whether or not they have credits for this particular year, because we have already started the academic year,” Bailey said.

This past summer, the program worked with three area high schools in recruiting mentors for this semester and the next. For next year, MEN is expanding. Not only is the target number increasing to almost the twice that of the first year, it is also working with more people and schools around the community in identifying young men who could benefit from involvement in this program.

The number of high schools in contact with Bailey and his office has significantly increased and they are focusing on those that have Go-Centers. The university has offices in different high schools around El Paso, where high school students can go seeking direction when it comes to life after graduation. MEN is looking to use the relationship high school staff develop with the staff at these centers in order to attract incoming freshmen to the program.

“We are moving into our year two phase of recruitment,” Bailey said. “The difference this coming year is that we’re going to go to as many schools as we can hit, we’re broadening our scope now.”

The MEN program is still in its infant stages, but Bailey, Ronquillo and the others involved hope it will continue to grow and improve. The grant that triggered the launching of the program is set to expire after year two in the 2016-2017 school year; but the hope is the program will continue, and it can develop into an important asset the university can offer its student population.

“We have a number of mentoring programs around campus but there aren’t any that focus specifically on these two populations of students,” Bailey said. “Moving down the line, the hope is that this becomes one of the premium mentoring programs on campus that people can model future mentoring programs after.”

Those interested in getting involved with MEN may visit an椒r.edu/ mentor or call 915-747-5670.

In brief

GEOLOGY

The Award and Hooding Ceremony for the College of Liberal will be at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 10, 2015 at Geology Reading Room.

MILITARY SCIENCE

The Military Science Commissioning Ceremony will be at 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11 at the Union Cinema, Union Building East.

EDUCATION

The College of Education College Ceremony will be at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11 at the Magoffin Auditorium.

ENGINEERING

The College of Engineering Order of the Engineer Ceremony will be at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12.

HEALTH SCIENCES

The College of Health Sciences Graduation Celebration and Hooding Ceremony will be at 3:30 p.m., check-in begins at 2:20 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12 at the Magoffin Auditorium.

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GRIFOLS
December 2015 graduates face favorable outlook on job market and economy

BY ALONSO MORENO
The Prospector

As winter 2015 commencement approaches, hundreds of graduates can look to the future with hope as positive trends in the job market and the economy favor the timing of graduation.

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers’ job outlook 2016 survey, employers plan to hire 11 percent more new college graduates from the class of 2016.

This represents a slight improvement from their previous spring 2015 survey, which indicated an end-of-year hiring increase of about 10 percent.

Unemployment is also down. The Wall Street Journal tracked the unemployment rate at 9.3 percent overall in November 2015. The numbers for November 2015 are not out yet, but for October they were reported at 5 percent overall, continuing a small but steady decline since 2010.

Although there is no perfect blueprint to follow for success in the job market, Dr. Thomas Fullerton, chair for the Study of Trade in the Americas and professor of Economics, said that having a college degree provides an entry to a workforce with the lowest unemployment rates.

“As long as they graduate from college, they are going to be treated better by the job market than somebody that had not graduated from college; at least on average,” Fullerton said. “The unemployment rates for different worker categories clearly show there is an inverse relationship between educational attainment and unemployment.”

The Wall Street Journal also tracked the unemployment rate for individuals who hold at least bachelor's degree, showing that in October 2015 their overall unemployment rate is 2.5 percent.

Fullerton said that the trend of unemployment is pretty clear; the less educated workers are those that face the steeper markets. People with only a high school diploma or less, face a much steeper climb, as they are above the overall average, with high school graduates having 5.2 percent and those with less than high school being at 7.4 percent.

“Well it’s no secret really; since you were young, teachers, parents and a lot of people let you know that college is the best option if you want to get ahead in life,” said Enrique Portugal, a graduating senior with a Spanish degree. “But it’s also about feasibility; you have to be able to apply what you study in different ways to be more marketable and increase your chances of landing a great job.”

The allure of a high-demand job or a lucrative salary are the two biggest factors for students when it comes to deciding what to focus on, but this might not always be the best train of thought for students.

“There are actually a number of practical decisions that can be made in this regard (picking a career path), so if somebody is not sure what to study and does not have a strong desire to study a specific field, then it might make sense to focus on a degree that will have the best return on investment,” Fullerton said.

The image contains a graph showing hiring projections from 2011 to 2016 and another graph showing employers' hiring expectations from 2010 to 2016. The graphs are courtesy of the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

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Defunding Planned Parenthood could mean struggles for health centers

BY REBECCA ANZEL AND JESSICA PEREDA

WASHINGTON — Scott County, Ind., is a 190-square-mile, rural area on the southeastern edge of the state. Thirty-six miles north of Louisville, Ky., its home to about 24,000 residents.

As with countless Midwest towns, the county has wide open spaces. Weekends, the local concert hall draws crowds with live music. Scott County also has a low college-education rate and high drug use.

One thing the county is short on is medical care — there are 25 practicing physicians, a ratio of one doctor for every 960 patients. That’s below the national rate of 2.5 doctors per thousand people, according to the World Bank. It was also ranked the most unhealthy county in Indiana five years in a row.

The Planned Parenthood Clinic in Scottsburg, the county seat, closed in 2013 because it lost state funding. And there have been consequences.

From 2004 to 2013, the county had five reported cases of HIV. In 2015, that number jumped 3,529 percent to 181 cases. The only difference, according to some officials, is the number of medical providers.

The state has a complicated history with Planned Parenthood. Indiana became one of the first states to try to exclude Planned Parenthood from the Medicaid program in 2011, an effort eventually overturned by the courts. That was followed by numerous other efforts to restrict funding to the public health system. Scott County’s clinic is one of the few that has closed since 2011 as a result. It left an area struggling with what the state health department calls an “epidemic” with no HIV testing facilities, although any physician can perform the test.

“I think the HIV outbreak is a host of environmental issues, but yes, the clinic that was in Scottsburg was one of the only HIV testing centers,” Kristin Adams, president and CEO of the Indiana Family Health Council, said. “That doesn’t mean docs weren’t testing, but the fact is, did we miss an opportunity? The possibility is there” IFCMH manages public family planning funds.

While loss of the Planned Parenthood clinic was not a direct cause of the HIV outbreaks, it services it’s a crosscut education, awareness and testing for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. Since the outbreak, the Indiana State Health Department began a needle exchange program and introduced a mobile health clinic that does testing.

A national problem

A Hericuan struggle between pro- and anti-abortion groups erupted in July after videos were released showing Planned Parenthood officials speaking about how the organization supplies fetal tissue to be used in research. Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards was called as a witness in a House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing in September.

Critics of Planned Parenthood have called for Congress to withdraw the group’s public funding for a year while an investigation is conducted.

Several states have initiated investigations into Planned Parenthood. Politicians who are calling for Planned Parenthood to be defunded have said the solution to end the gap of care, should Planned Parenthood lose federal funding, would be to redirect funds to federally qualified health centers, community health centers or other comparable services.

“I support legislation that would stop roughly $540 million in federal funding away from the Planned Parenthood Federation of America or any of its affiliate organizations and redirect it to women’s health care services at facilities like community health centers,” Sen. Dan Coons, R-Ind., said in a statement.

Others have said it might not be that simple.

“Community health centers really are not equipped and should not be expected to be equipped to fill the gap in the safety net that would be left if Planned Parenthood were defunded,” Kristen Woodyard, public-policy manager at the Guttmacher Institute, said.

Sara Tishkoff, founding chair of Planned Parenthood, said she spoke with the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services, echoed that thought in a piece she wrote for Health Affairs.

“A claim that community health centers readily can absorb the loss of Planned Parenthood clinics amounts to a gross misrepresentation of what even the best community health centers in the country would be able to do were Planned Parenthood to lose over 40 percent of its operating revenues overnight as the result of a ban on federal funding,” she said.

Community health centers saw 22 million patients nationally in 2013. According to the National Association for Community Health Centers, the cost per patient visit was $64 in 2012. Federal funding covered 43% of that. While health centers could have additional sources of funding — including tax and other grants — many still struggled to close that gap.

Planned Parenthood is different in that “other health-care providers do not raise private dollars to ensure that their patients can get the care that they need,” she said. “We do,” says Cecile Richards, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky.

While loss of federal funding would not automatically result in the closures of all 625 Planned Parenthood clinics across the U.S., 25 percent to 25 percent of the organization’s patients would be at risk of losing health care, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Planned Parenthood clinics now 2.8 million patients across the country in 2014, according to its website. A 2014 Guttmacher Institute report found that, although Planned Parenthood clinics represented 10 percent of all health centers, the health-care providers served 36 percent of family planning clients.

With additional patients looking for medical services, stress on health centers would intensify. Sending additional funding to those health centers would be of tremendous help, but some officials say that effort might not be enough to avoid a public health-care problem.

Reese Benson, said it will be hard for community health centers to immediately use money previously allocated to Planned Parenthood because “there’s a gulf between that assertion and being able to provide that care.”

How public health-care funding works

Planned Parenthood and community health centers receive Medicaid reimbursements and family planning grants under Title X of the Public Health Service Act. The two, with other smaller grants, make up about 40 percent of Planned Parenthood’s budget.

Medicaid is a federal-state partnership that pays for health care for people with limited income. Federal and state governments decide which programs or services they want to fund, and in some cases they can choose how much money to allocate to health clinics. Medicaid also pays for care in hospitals, nursing homes and doctors’ offices.

The federal government spent $530 billion on Medicaid in fiscal 2015, according to the Office of Management and Budget. Title X, the only federal grant program dedicated to family planning, started during the Ronald Reagan administration. Grants are awarded to a variety of agencies, including hospitals and independent health centers. The law dictates that recipients of the grants must follow specific rules and regulations. But money under Title X hasn’t kept up with inflation. The Guttmacher Institute found the Title X grants program needs to receive $494.5 million to keep up with the price of medical care. In 2014, Congress allocated $286.5 million.

“The need is going up — the financial support for this program is going down because Congress is cutting it,” Hasenfeld said.

Federally Qualified Health Centers and Planned Parenthood affiliates can receive Title X grants if they apply and meet the criteria. If they receive these grants, the middle section of the graphic is applicable. SHFWire graphic by Rebecca Aczel. Federally Qualified Health Centers and Planned Parenthood affiliates can receive Title X grants if they apply and meet the criteria. If they receive these grants, the middle section of the graphic is applicable. SHFWire graphic by Rebecca Aczel. According to the Guttmacher Institute, "Medicaid pays for care in hospitals, nursing homes and doctors' offices, as well as Planned Parenthood."
For veterans, seeking mental-health treatment still has hurdles

BY HEATHER KHALIFA

WASHINGTON — After two deployments to Afghanistan and more than seven years in the Marine Corps, Nicholas Karmanski left the military in the fall of 2011 to start his merited grooming company in honor of a buried friend who was killed in combat in 2012. But it was in the fall of 2014 that he began to notice his concentration slipping, and his memory fading. He reached out the Department of Veterans Affairs to seek mental-health treatment, not entirely sure what was wrong with him.

One month after making the call, Karmanski met with a psychiatrist who prescribed an antidepressant.

“Two weeks into taking the medication, I began to feel depressed, isolated, my initial issue with memory and concentration,” Karmanski said. Oct. 29 at a Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs hearing. “Cold, lonely depression took its hold. I felt hopeless. At first I thought I was just having a really bad day, but these feelings persisted. I knew something was wrong. This was not me.”

Karmanski made the decision to stop taking the medication after being told he would not be able to meet with his psychiatrist for another 30 days. Today, Karmanski is using his experiences with the VA to advocate for better and more accessible mental-health care for veterans. He shared his story, and that of others, at the Senate hearing in hopes of paving the path for more advocacy and discussion on this issue.

“I had a few friends commit suicide upon coming home, and seeing some of my other buddies struggling with it, I was like, you know I’m kind of in a position to have an impact here,” said Karmanski, who lives in Arlington, Va., just outside Washington. “I have my experiences, I’m close to the Hill. I can alert a few people who are willing to talk about this. I don’t need my security clearance anymore. I have no desire to work for the government, so I can air this out, and if I lose my clearance, that’s fine.”

Having started his career as an intelligence officer, Karmanski knows what goes into getting a government security clearance. Seeking mental-health treatment can affect that clearance, which is why Karmanski believes many veterans choose to suffer silently.

“Just let’s say you were having re- ally tough times at home, or fighting depression that may or may not have been PTSD related. That could in theory jeopardize your security clear- ance,” Karmanski said. “So a lot of people I know were suffering, but wouldn’t ask, help, because if they lost their clearance, then they lost their job.”

But the stigma that surrounds mental health is another reason Karmanski believes vets are reluctant to speak out.

“I was walking around without a cast with a broken foot, I didn’t even want a cast because I didn’t want guys to know I broke my foot,” Karmanski said. “That’s on the physical side. So mental wounds, which are much more sensitive, and guys are far less willing to share. But what I learned is that a lot of guys do want to talk about it.”

An increase in demand for mental-health treatment

The Senate hearing was called after a Government Accountability Office report highlighted many issues plaguing the VA, including appointment scheduling and the lengthy hiring process that often deters mental health professionals from working there.

Dr. Harold Kudler, chief consul- tant for mental health services at the VA, also testified. He said that from 2005 to 2014, the number of veterans who received mental health care from the VA grew by 71 percent — more than three times the increase over in the overall number of VA users.

“The GAO report found that VHA met mental health hiring initia- tive goals, but that VAMCs reported continued challenges in ongoing hiring of mental health staff and in increasing the meeting demands for such care,” Kudler said about the department’s medical centers. Kudler also cited the pay disparity between the VA and the private sector, and the overall nationwide shortage of mental health professionals.

The GAO report found that unfilled positions and a lack of data cause long wait times. “Given the vulnerabilities of veterans seeking health care, ensuring timely access to care is crucial,” said Dr. Debra Draper, director of the health team at GAO. Since Karmanski got into the system, he said that the care he received from the VA has been fantastic. But the hurdle of getting into the system, along with the long wait times for appointments and a tangled phone system is ultimately what he would like to see fixed, particularly for those seeking mental-health treatment.

“With some people, they need that help and they need it now — other- wise it could end tragically,” Karmanski said. “Like one of my friends who committed suicide — it was the way he did it, it seemed like it might have been planned, but he did it in a way that the moment, after an argument”

Struggling for support

Alissa Hurkan, 48, of Dallas, a full-time student at Central Texas College, and a retired tank mechanic who served in the Army for over 13 years, was one of several vets who reached out to Karmanski before he testified at the Senate committee hearing.

“I could literally feel my world crumbling. I had gone through a re- ally tough divorce, he wasn’t letting me see my kids, I felt like with the plan, I was doing it. I was having panic attacks and nightmares and depres- sion. I called my dad and was never an answer from the VA mental health building. It took me calling the patient advocate,” Hurkan wrote on Karmanski’s Facebook page, after he posted a status about the hearing.

“After calling the patient advocate, Hurkan found out she had been dropped from the mental health log, and had to be re-entered into the system. From her last appointment with a mental-health specialist in July 2014, it took her until February to schedule another appointment. Despite finally seeing a psychia- trist, she said her mental health still hasn’t improved substantially.

Hurkan said in a telephone inter- view that many vets she has spoken to are uncomfortable communi- cating with the VA. But at her local clinic, that is not the case — a trend that the GAO report has found to be true. The VA performs to standards on a national scale, but many individ- ual centers fall short of expectations.

“No, that’s not packed every time I go there, it’s just untimelike,” said Hurkan, who goes to the olive E. Topea Veterans’ Medical Center in Temple, Texas. “There’s only one hall of psychiatrists and psychologists. There should be a whole separate hospital dedicated for mental issues in the VA. This is a huge epidemic. If you’re losing so many soldiers and vets from suicide from depression and PTSD’s that’s a real thing right there.”

Hurkan said that VA doctors gen- erally want to help veterans, but the administration overall and the be- nemothactic way the hospitals are run is what ultimately cause the patient- doctor disconnect. Many times he has felt disconnected by the system, and by those who work at her VA center.

“Let’s talk to a female vet! Is that what it is, is it because you have total disregard for every vet you come in contact with?” she said. “There’s been a couple of times where I’ve been there and I thought, I’m going to be escorted out of here by a cop.”

Advocacy for non-traditional treatment

On the morning of Veterans Day, veterans and advocates alike turned out and emerged from the lobby where they slept in McPherson Square to march to the White House two blocks away. Among them was Jose Martinez, 27, a veteran and an activist who came from Santa Monica, Calif., to Washington to advocate for the use of marijuana, or cannabis, for veterans suffering from mental wounds.

“I think when we say marijuana, we start to limit the properties of it,” said Brandon Wyatt, 31, an organizer of the event who is also a veteran and an attorney living in Washington. “It’s because to the federal government the use of marijuana over actual opiods,” Martinez said. “Who better than me to actually go up and tell the people who need to be given up, and we’re still having people die, that’s not actually an answer.”

According to a report by the Center for Investigative Reporting, prescriptions for opiods for veterans have more than tripled since 2011. see VETERANS on page A14
Federally Qualified Health Centers and Planned Parenthood affiliates can receive Title X grants if they apply and meet the criteria. If they receive these grants, the middle section of the graph is applicable.

Another problem in the time it would take to allow the new funds to reach community health centers. "Other federally qualified health centers or the county health departments, which could provide the care that we provide, in theory does have a relationship with the same populations that we do. Even with the check of money we get from Title X, it's not enough for them to sort of train up their whole delivery system and take on a whole new population," Nicole Sald, director of government relations for Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, said.

A federal appeals court on Monday overturned a 2013 Wisconsin law requiring physicians who provide abortion services to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals. The judges found the law to be unconstitutional because it placed an undue burden on a woman's right to an abortion. State Rep. Kyle Overersen, D-N.D., said she does not think the problem is with more money for community health centers, but their ability. "They're not struggling with capacity or resources, but they do not have a great reach to rural communities," she said.

If Congress votes to block Planned Parenthood from receiving federal money, some clinics may close, causing increased patient demand at public health centers. The question for patients will be whether those other clinics offer similar family planning services.

Federal programs buttress the system of family planning centers and fill gaps in services and coverage. Abortion care is fully funded through Title X grants. Medicaid pays for abortions only in cases of rape, incest and danger to the mother’s health.

Planned Parenthood received $559 million in 2014 through Medicaid and Title X. Community health centers were allocated $4.1 billion over five years, beginning in 2014. Planned Parenthood and federally qualified health centers operate under two different sets of regulations and procedures. Health centers can choose which family planning services to offer based on need, but they do need to provide some of those services. As part of its mission statement, Planned Parenthood provides extensive family planning services.

"I think there's some misnomers that any community health center can pick this up because the Title X grant has some different requirements that federally qualified health centers don't have to meet," Adams said. "The concern is, can they operate on two really different sets of rules and regulations?"

**What's next**

The Senate must vote on a spending bill by Dec. 11, when the current spending bill expires. Planned Parenthood funding could come up in several different ways. One is a House-passed bill that would repeal some aspects of the Affordable Care Act and defund Planned Parenthood.

"It will contain a default of Planned Parenthood in the Obamacare repeal bill," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said at a weekly press conference Nov. 17. "We'll be moving to that after Thanksgiving." President Barack Obama would veto such a bill.

Many Republicans would vote with him, a maneuver designed to defund Planned Parenthood instead of being part of an overall spending bill. If that passes, Obama could veto it, triggering a government shutdown. Or, when legislators return to Capitol Hill next week, they could negotiate a different solution.

"Family Planning Locations" graphic by Jessica Feroz.

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**ATTENTION!**

**STUDENTS IN THE VISUAL ARTS**

The UT System Board of Regents wants to recognize you through The UT System Regent’s Outstanding Arts & Humanities Award Recognition of the Visual Arts.

Submit images of your two-dimensional artwork and three-dimensional artwork. The winner will be named in each category. A $1,500 monetary award will be made in the winners’ names to the department of their choice.

Departments have the option to distribute awards to the winning artist.

**Eligibility:**
- Full-time undergraduate students of any major studying at a UT Institution.

**General Criteria:**
- Must demonstrate high academic performance
- Must demonstrate commitment to the visual arts through participation in university and community activities.

**How to participate:**
- In one page or less, explain your background and interest in the visual arts and describe what you hope to achieve with regard to your art in the future. Pick up an application from the main Art Office, Fox Fine Arts Bldg., A350, M - F during regular business hours.
- Include descriptions of your participation in university and community activities involving the arts.

**Submit a maximum of 10 images of your work. Images should include no less than five different artworks. All images must be embedded in a single file (pdf) along with a brief description (200 words or less) of each piece. List the title of each piece, how and when it was made, and its dimensions. Students must also submit the completed application form as part of their PDF packet.**

- Application materials will become the property of The University of Texas System, and will not be returned.

- The finalists may be required to sign permission documents to allow UT System to display selected artwork on a limited basis.

**Specific Evaluation Criteria: Evaluations will be based on the following elements:**
- Originality: The artwork displays a distinctive style and is highly imaginative.
- Use of media: The artwork demonstrates a strong mastery of the chosen medium to clearly communicate the artist’s ideas and experiences.
- Artistic Composition: The artwork clearly shows different visual structures and functions of art used to communicate ideas and evoke strong responses from the viewer.

For questions or submit your materials, contact: artdept@utep.edu • (915) 747-5176
**THE PROSPECTOR**

DECEMBER 1, 2015

**NEWS | A13 |**

**UTEP continues to rank low in sexual health report card**

The University of Texas at El Paso ranked 103 out of 140 in Trojan's Sexual Health Report Card, an annual study sponsored by the makers of Trojan Brand Condoms and conducted by SpermIng's BestPlaces. The independent study ranks American colleges and universities according to the availability of sexual health resources on campus.

"At the top schools, we're seeing a real focus on talking about sexual health," said Bert Sperling, president of SpermIng's BestPlaces. "They're trying to talk about sex as part of a real, natural, healthy living. They more they talk about it in the open, the less likely there is for unintended consequences.

"This is a real tool students can use to start a dialogue with the administration.

"According to the report, when it comes to sexual health, the country is falling. Data published in the 2014 Center for Disease Control Surveillance Report, reveals an increase in reported cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis. There were 1.4 million reported cases of chlamydia, an increase from 2013. Youth between the age 15 to 24 are the biggest at-risk population. Although they are the lowest portion of the sexually active populations, they account for the highest rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea. Previous CDC estimates suggest they acquire half of the 20 million new STDs diagnosed each year. "The consequences of STDs are especially severe for young people," said Gail Bolan, director of the CDC’s Division of STD Prevention, in a news release.

The HIMSPEEP program was established by the UTEP Wellness Program through a three-year grant under the Two Should Know initiative developed by the Paso Del Norte Health Foundation. The HIMSPEEP aims to educate students so they can make informed decisions about their sexual health by providing them with factual, medically accurate information. It focuses on safe sex, STDs, healthy relationships and sex positivity. The program employs two graduate assistants and 20 Healthy Miner peer educators. The peer educators receive training on sexual health, present workshops and table around campus to provide sexual health information to students. The program emphasizes creating a sex-positive culture so that students feel comfortable approaching peer educators with questions about sex.

"This is a real tool students can use to start a dialogue with the administration. This is a real tool students can use to start a dialogue with the administration. This is a real tool students can use to start a dialogue with the administration. This is a real tool students can use to start a dialogue with the administration. This is a real tool students can use to start a dialogue with the administration. This is a real tool students can use to start a dialogue with the administration.

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Women’s Health of New Mexico

3200 E. Lohman Ave., Suite B, Las Cruces, NM 88011
VETERANS from page A7

Advocates like Wyatt and Martinez believe that the opiates given to veterans by the VA are doing more harm than good, making them feel not only more depressed, but also likely to become addicted. West for Warriors is pushing for the use of medical marijuana as an alternative to opiates for veterans to use without facing any discrimination.

"I was suicidal, with the pills the VA gave me," said Robert Jordan, 67, a Vietnam veteran from Parrish, Fl., and an advocate for the legalization of marijuana. "What people have to understand is that cannabis isn't addictive. Unless you really truly been addicted to something and know what addiction is, then you haven't got a clue.

Jordan continues to receive his health care through the VA, and has been keeping up with the hearings and latest talk on the H.R. "I don't understand the bureaucracy of it," Jordan said. "I was searching for something. This isn't anything new. They're running on 1068 computers and stuff, and they keep throwing money and money at them. They got to run like a business, be more efficient, that's what they've got to do." Like Karnaze and Hurkmans, Jordan takes issue with the wait times. "I don't need to wait for them to get an appointment," Jordan said. "People die waiting to get appointments, and they're trying to get better about that, and that's the bad. There's good and bad, but the bad is really bad." The VA Office of Inspector General's most recent report found that "as of September 30, 2014, over 307,000 pending [enrollment system] records were for individuals reported as deceased by the Social Security Administration.

Jose Martinez had an experience while on opiates similar to that of Jordan. He has not taken an opiate in more than two years. Instead, he smokes cannabis. Martinez, a triple amputee, stepped on an improvised explosive device while serving two years in Afghanistan. "I actually don't take any opiates," Martinez said. "I tried to commit suicide after all of this happened to me," Martinez said. "I just started mentally beating myself up, and as I was taking opiates, it was depressing. And all I wanted to do was keep sleeping every single day and night, because I didn't want to look at my body. I went from being this amazing human being, this gorgeous man with a beautiful smile that was able to walk on this Earth and do whatever he wanted. I'm wheelchair-bound for life now." Both Hurkmans and Martinez have said that many who work at the VA simply cannot relate to their military experiences. "I know exactly what it took to go and do what we did over there, and you guys will never be able to understand that," Martinez said. "And some people, or some person that feels like they have the right answer or they know the right answer, they'll never understand." While Hurkmans and Martinez believe that the VA is not doing a good job of treating military veterans, other advocates say that the VA is saving lives. "I was so grateful for me and Nicky's back and forth emails. He shed a lot of light on some stuff, he was very proactive with me," Hurkmans said. "He was very like, I'm going to help you. We're going to find a path that will help you. I was completely appreciative that somebody would take it seriously other than me." While bringing awareness to the topic, Karnaze is also learning new things along the way, not just on the topic of mental health treatment, but about himself.

"It's been an eye-opening experience for sure," Karnaze said. "I know that Secretary [Robert] McDonald and the VA are trying hard. I think there's been a perception that it's been the vets against the VA, and I don't believe that to be the case." Being vocal has worked in Karnaze's favor, and now he's hoping to make it work in others' favor as well. "When you talk about these things, it can be therapeutic," Karnaze said. "As my big thing, as an officer of the Marine Corps, you have a great sense of responsibility for the well-being of your Marines, and that kind of carries over even when you leave the service. So I almost felt like I was doing my guys a disservice by not speaking up, because I know a lot of them are suffering kind of silently, so I decided to preach the topic. If I can help them feel better, then it's worth it." This story has been updated to correct the number of years Karnaze spent in Afghanistan.

Before moving to West Palm Beach, Karnaze was a 17-year-old military brat who moved around the country. "I was a peculiary gifted foundation like I still am on Facebook and I had a lot of people following me." "Now I have a lot of good at, but in my case, I am starting to see a better outlook on my mind than what I previously believed. It pays to be smart about your education as well as having different places in case something does not work out the way you envisioned it."
Experience key when getting a job after graduation

BY JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ
Prospector

Recent reports show college graduates are facing a growing job market, as the unemployment gap between them and the general population continues to shrink. In the middle of an expansionary phase in the current economic cycle, businesses are investing more and more in new employees but those spots are not as easy to get. As to how students can be more marketable, Career Services Director Betsy Castro had some advice. Having a strong GPA, developing networks and knowing how to communicate will really help out, she said.

One of the most important tools to land a job, Castro said, was having work experience during school.

"Internships have a neat correlation to getting jobs," Castro said. According to a job outlook survey from the National Association of Colleges and Employers, nearly all the employers who completed the survey preferred hiring employees who had previous work experience. The survey showed men and women had similar chances of landing an internship, around 65 percent. It’s not just limited to internships, Castro explained any kind of work experience will help people learn skills on the job and form relationships with people in the field. These relationships could end up being the key to landing a position once the student graduates.

"Typically, most of the students have jobs after graduation and that’s usually because of their experiences," said Castro, citing information taken from the Spring 2015 Career Services Graduation Survey. The survey, given to graduates before their commencement ceremonies, is one of the university’s most important tools in knowing how to help students. Castro said she explained the survey answers let the university know how much students need to push students to look for work experience and better their job searches. The survey shows more than 60 percent of students who graduated in the spring of 2015 either already had a job or were looking for one, 95 percent planned on going on to graduate school. The survey doesn’t only help out remaining students. However, those who fill the survey out may benefit from the same piece of paper they turn in.

"If they say yes (to looking for jobs after graduating), we reach out to them and let them know they can still use our services fee or charge for two semesters," Castro said.

Internships have a neat correlation to getting jobs.
**QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

What are your plans after graduation?

ADRIAN BROADOUS, ANDRES MARTINEZ, ANGEL UIJLOA / THE PROSPECTOR

December 1, 2015

**NAOMI TORRES**
Freshman psychology major
“After I graduate I want to be a psychologist and travel the world.”

**ALEXANDRA BERRIOS**
Freshman forensic sciences major  
“I hope to go for my MSN and be a nurse practitioner and specialize in family care.”

**BENJ RODRIGUEZ**
Sophomore finance major  
“My plans after I graduate are to go with the flow and try to get a job out of town, Live day by day. No long term planning.”

**DELANEY KUEHNEL**
Sophomore kinesiology major  
“After graduation I plan to travel the world.”

**KEVIN RODRIGUEZ**
Sophomore accounting major  
“My plans after graduation are get out of town, get a job to get experience, and after acquiring experience apply for the FBI.”

**JEAN ANDRE MOORE**
Sophomore commercial music major  
“I want to perform in front of thousands and thousands of people and entertain audiences.”

**ROXANNA ROCHA**
Sophomore pre nursing major  
“I hope to go for my MSN and be a nurse practitioner and specialize in family care.”

**VICTOR MADRID**
Junior mechanical engineering major  
“After graduation, my goal is to work for a company to gather resources and begin my entrepreneurship in the energy field to provide clean energy.”

**ANDREA VILLELA**
Sophomore mechanical engineering major  
“After graduation I plan to go on to get a master’s degree while working as an intern.”

**SEBASTIAN PEREZ**
Sophomore mechanical engineering major  
“I don’t know, I didn’t think I would get this far.”

**OLIVER SINDAVIYAYA**
Software engineering - second year graduate student  
“Look for a job as a software engineer.”

**CARLOS VIZCARRA**
Junior mechanical engineering major  
“Work for a construction company as an engineer.”

**MARCEL GILLEY**
Freshman mechanical engineering major  
“My goal is to graduate with honors and go to graduate school so I can one day own my own business.”

**JESUS OJEDA**
Senior marketing & economics major  
“I want to go into commercial real estate and franchising, but first get my MBA.”

**JOSHUA SILVAS**
Senior kinesiology major  
“I want to become a college football coach and one day become the head coach of the UTEP Miners.”
OUR VIEW

Best news photo moments of 2015

1. UTEP unveils Centennial Plaza on Apr. 18, 2015. 2. UTEP alumnus David Smith-Soto speaks at anti-campus carry rally. 3. The Terry Foundation Scholarship Program awards 16 students with full ride scholarships including housing at the unveiling of Elmer Canary.
In honor of the upcoming winter commencement, The Prospector had a Q&A session with UTEP President Diana Natalicio.

When you first graduated from college, how did you know what to do after that?

With encouragement from my professors at St. Louis University, to consider going to graduate school. I had my eye on the University of Wisconsin because it was highly regarded for its programs in Spanish language and literature, which is what I'd studied at SLU. At the suggestion of one of my professors, I also applied for a Fulbright Fellowship to spend a year in Brazil, but didn't think I'd actually be selected, so I didn't give that possibility much thought. When I received a letter from my congressman informing me that I'd been awarded the Fulbright, I was shocked and somewhat frightened at the prospect, especially since I'd never flown on an airplane or lived away from home before! Happily, I gathered my courage and traveled to Brazil, where I spent the most exciting and intensive learning experience of my life—totally transformative!

What is your advice for students graduating this semester?

Be confident that the preparation you've received at UTEP will enable you to be successful in achieving your biggest dreams. Be bold in pursuing opportunities that may initially seem daunting to you.

What is the biggest difference you see in today's students from when you first became president in 1988?

There are nearly 9,000 more UTEP students today than there were in 1988, and they more faithfully reflect the demographics of the surrounding region than they did then. UTEP students in 2015 set higher aspirations for themselves—graduate/professional schools and career options—and they are far more actively engaged in seeking to capitalize on the rich range of opportunities for professional and personal development offered to them on today's UTEP campus.

What efforts are being done to increase graduation rates?

Traditional graduation rates, which are a vestige of mid-20th century higher education, are highly misleading measures of the performance of large public universities like UTEP, because their calculation requires that students start and complete their degrees at the same institution. At UTEP, this method of calculating graduation rates means that 70 percent of our graduates—including all our transfer students—don't get counted, simply because they didn't start their bachelor's degrees as full-time freshmen at UTEP.

Given the fact that 79 percent of UTEP students make less than $19,000 a year, do you think increasing tuition will decrease access to education?

No, I don't think that modest increases in tuition would have that impact because, through our UTEP Promise program, students whose family incomes total $30,000 or less, are guaranteed financial aid that eliminates any out-of-pocket cost of attendance.

What progress has been made toward achieving tier-one status, and why is this accomplishment important for UTEP?

We've made huge progress. We set two tier-one goals: $100 million in annual research expenditures and 100 doctoral degrees conferred annually. Over the past several years, we've already exceeded the 100 doctoral degrees goal, and our annual research expenditures now total more than $90 million, so we're getting very close to achieving that goal as well.

Since you became president, there have been major, significant changes at UTEP, such as an increase in enrollment, research expenditures, the construction of new buildings, etc. What future do you foresee for UTEP?

What legacy do you wish to leave behind?

I see UTEP as a national model for educating historically underrepresented students—Hispanics, first in their families to pursue higher education, and those who have very limited financial means. The disparity in higher educational attainment between low and high socioeconomic quartiles in U.S. society has grown wider over the past 40 years. Fewer than 10 percent of U.S. young people in the lowest socioeconomic quartile today earn a bachelor's degree, while in the highest quartile, bachelor's degree attainment has risen to nearly 80 percent. UTEP's access and excellence mission has become well known for successfully addressing that absolutely unacceptable socioeconomic disparity and for re-shaping the national narrative on the role of U.S. public higher education in the 21st century. To me, that will be, far and away, UTEP's most critically important and lasting legacy.
Dealing with stress during finals

By Valeria Terrazas
The Prospector

Finals week is almost here, and several students have begun their efforts toward saving the semester, either because of procrastination or because they are obsessed with turning in perfect work. Whatever the reason may be, this time of the semester is characterized by lots of caffeine, sleep deprivation and stress, which actually are not good in the quest for good grades.

Stress, however, is not always a bad thing. According to Dr. Sheri E. Terrell, licensed psychologist and director of the University Counseling Center, there is "bad stress" and "good stress." "Stress itself is not always bad, it is a natural reaction of your body to get stuff done, and can get you motivated," Terrell said. "But when you feel over stressed out, when you can't sleep and can't get things done, stress is getting in your way, and then is problematic." Terrell says that stress is a natural reaction that can make a student efficient and focused when completing tasks.

Manage your stress effectively

In order to help students, the UCC director shares some recommendations to manage stress and keep it from interfering in a negative manner with grades.

At the top of the list, the UCC recommends to manage time effectively. Usage of an agenda, scheduling projects, due dates and even a daily planner that lists study and leisure time, always giving priority to complete the most important stuff first.

"Since the beginning of the semester, start working in your planner and attach to it," Terrell said. "Only use one single planner, where you manage time for school, work and family instead of having one planner for each." Secordly, the UCC recommends taking a small break to reduce stress. Between the tasks you list to be completed during the day, schedule several small breaks for activities such as stretching, calling a friend or going for a walk.

Eat healthy food and get some exercise. Avoid eating foods high in fat, sugar or sodium that can lower your energy. Instead, pack healthy snacks. This way you can keep your energy up throughout the day. Exercise is also recommended, it releases endorphins and gives you a natural boost of energy. When stressed, students can experience worry and anxiety. Some people may look to reduce these symptoms through the consumption of alcohol or drugs. The UCC recommends avoiding the use of drugs or alcohol to cope with stress.

"These substances will only mask the symptoms of stress. Reduce our efficiency and after their effect, stress will come back," Terrell said. "These tips can be applied since the beginning of the semester, and it is recommended they be applied as early as possible. The more a student repeats these actions, the more easily they become a habit for good. Unfortunately, we are not at the beginning of the semester and there may not be enough time right now to make all these modifications.

In the worst case scenario

If something occurred during the semester, something that made us go off the track, either procrastination or just a life happening, do not panic. There is still a chance. When stressed, students often feel that life is a catastrophe. Stress is more about how we feel about our own stress and how we handle it. The main difference between anxiety and excitement is what we tell to ourselves," Terrell said.

She emphasizes that a positive attitude is a key factor when dealing with stress. Keeping a positive attitude toward the situation can help to better handle stress and help you move forward to accomplish your goals. On the other hand, if we use the situation as an excuse, we would be more overwhelmed.

Terrell also advises students to "not hesitate to look for help, don't wait to the last minute and use your resources." There are plenty of resources that can help a student excel during their college life, especially when they are having trouble in a particular class.

The University Counseling Center, tutoring, talking to professors, asking the teaching assistant for any sort of help, are among many ways in which a student can seek help during this stressful time.

From Terrell's perspective, finals are the best time of the semester to assess oneself.

"Sit and talk to yourself, being realistic and honest. What have you done right? What could I improve?" she said. "It is a reality check."

Finally, Terrell advises students to think about the big picture. It can help students work on those aspects that are not allowing positive results and causing stress and modify them for future semesters. It is also important to remember that much time a student invests in professional preparation, because in the end that is what college is all about, a student's biggest investment in life.

Valeria Terrazas may be reached at the prospector@utep.edu

September freshman major Beni Benitez studies for his finals at the library.

Angel Ullon / The Prospector

2015-16 UTEP women's basketball

2015-16 UTEP men's basketball

2015-16 UTEP men's basketball

2015-16 UTEP women's basketball

2015-16 UTEP men's basketball

2015-16 UTEP women's basketball

2015-16 UTEP men's basketball
Daniela Dominguez, GECU Foundation Scholarship Recipient

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A UTEP PILLAR PARTNER
Entertainment moments to remember from 2015

1. Doodle art performance at an outdoor event.
2. Musician performing on stage with dynamic lighting.
4. Band performing live with energetic stage presence.

Andres Martinez, Michaela Roman / The Prospector
WEP students and alumni participate in this year's Doodle art. 2. Party Rocks! Doodler performs at the 2015 Noche De Salsa Music Festival. 3. George Lopez performing at the Don Haskins Center on Friday, July 24, 2015. 4. Earth, Wind & Fire perform at the Don Haskins Center on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015.
BarMen serves up good food and a good time

BarMen Kitchen and Patio Bar is located at 4130 N. Mesa St.

BY JOSE SOTO
The Prospector

Few of the local bars are known for their food as much as they’re known for other aspects of their establishment. I am literally sitting here writing this review thinking about the tacos I had last night. It isn’t often that you find a bar that can stand their ground amongst the best taco places. Mainly, bars are known for the crowds they attract, the music they play or their service, but the tacos at BarMen have to be some of the best in town.

BarMen Kitchen and Patio Bar, located at 4130 N. Mesa St., has been open for about three weeks, and they dish out signature Mexican dishes with actual Mexican flavors. The tacos, enchiladas, and burritos BarMen are legitimately some of the most delectable and authentic around. It’s definitely at the core of their success. I tried their tripitas and buche tacos. The meat was both flavorful and tender, two qualities that are hard to find when it comes to taco meat. BarMen’s tortillas are made fresh daily as well, which only adds on to the top-notch quality of their tacos. Well put together, it makes for a delectable taco.

BarMen started off as a food truck serving their tasty offerings through a window on their van. Now, the newly opened location offers the same food while you enjoy their beers on tap and their newly designed location.

Javier Ramos, owner of BarMen Kitchen and Patio Bar, said the business is “re-introducing Mexican cooking to a modern world with a classic flair.”

“When I develop the recipes, I want to have something simple and basic,” Ramos said. “We go for a classic Mexican can taste and not a watered-down version we commonly experience on the border. I wanted to bring southern Mexican flavor to El Paso and nailed it. Our steak had to be perfect enough for a 5-year-old to chew and not need a knife and an elderly with dentures would have no problem chewing and yet each slice of steak would be able to pack the flavor of a full, one-inch thick steak into a thin slice” Ramos added that their tripitas are the clearest and offer the actual flavor of the meat and no added flavors. “Our barbacoas has to have almost no added fat to find the true flavor” Ramos said. “Every recipe goes back to wanting to find the parent taste of the meat or veggie without having to marinade it. All of our food is focused on the natural taste of the food. No Mexican restaurant ever wants to give you top-shelf ingredients. We strive to only use top shelf.”

Ramos said his passion for good food is part of his familial upbringing, which has now helped him perfect the food offerings that are available at BarMen.

“My family has always been cooking since I was young,” Ramos said. “My grandfather drove a truck with potatoes and baked them to perfection. My parents started the El Paso Meat Company from scratch, but before all of that, we had one of El Pocios food trucks before they were trendy. Back in 1993, my father began to make tacos and I tagged along working the cash register. My mother cleaned and restocked the food truck daily.”

Ramos said he credits his father for his success because he was the one who taught him how to cook, especially how to get the right temperature when cooking meat.

“We are having some fun along the way,” Ramos said. “We have been a successful restaurant for the last three weeks because people have constantly repeated their visit to our place at all hours of the day. People come from all ages—from kids to older adults—they have tried our food and can taste the freshness of the ingredients.”

BarMen has a welcoming ambience. The patio is softly lit and convivial. Vintage airplane chairs on the patio give customers a unique way of sitting down and enjoying their adult beverage while socializing. Ramos said he decorated the place himself. It’s safe to say he did well. The sliding main doors are the bar’s best assets.

If the food isn’t reason enough to visit BarMen, the ambiance will definitely not disappoint. If you’re looking for a chill, fun time with some good food, this is the place to go.

Bar Men may be reached at TheProspector@elpaso.com

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**DECEMBER 1, 2015**

**HOLIDAY EVENTS**

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**
The UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance will perform the classic play starting on Dec. 13 at the Wise Family Theater at the Fox Fine Arts Center. Call (915) 747-5118 for ticket prices and showtimes.

**FRED LOYA CHRISTMAS LIGHTSHOW**
The winner of ABC’s “The Great Christmas Light Fight” will bring back an El Paso tradition beginning on Nov. 27 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 6, 7 and 8 p.m.

**RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER**
This musical brings the holiday favorite off the screen and onto the stage. Show dates are Dec. 8 and Dec. 9 at the Plaza Theater. Ticket prices vary from $31.50 to $50.

**DAVE KOZ CHRISTMAS TOUR**
Grammy-nominated saxophonist Dave Koz will give a jazzy touch to holiday favorites during the El Paso stop of his 2015 tour at the Plaza Theater on Dec. 15 at 7 p.m.

**TRADITIONAL MEXICAN POSADA**
The El Paso Museum of History will host a posada on Dec. 17 from 6:00 to 8 p.m. There will be piñata breaking, candy, villancicos (holiday songs), tamales, hot chocolate and live music. Limited seats are available. RSVP is required by calling (915) 351-3588.

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**The Cure to perform in El Paso for the second time**

The Cure will return to El Paso on May 17 at the Don Haskins Center.

Few bands are synonymous with their musical genres and political statements as The Cure. The iconic punk-rock band has enjoyed a long-lasting musical trajectory with abundant success. A lot of their success is in part due to their front man Robert Smith, the only original member of the group. Smith is the primary songwriter for The Cure and acts as lead vocalist. The Cure will be launching a 22-city North American tour beginning in the spring. The band will be performing in El Paso on May 17 at the Don Haskins Center. This will be the bands second El Paso concert after headlining Austin City Limits Music Festival in 2013.

The Cure released their debut album, “Three Imaginary Boys,” in 1979 in the United Kingdom. It was later re-titled “Boys Don’t Cry” for a North American release. The album included their break-through hit under the same title. The band later released hits such as “Love Song,” “Just Like Heaven,” and “Friday I’m In Love,” which made them among some of the best-selling and most successful bands of the 1980s.

A statement on the band’s official website states that they will perform unreleased tracks while showcasing a brand new stage production. Ticket prices range from $19.25 to $69.25. They are available at the UTEP Ticket Center and at the official Ticketmaster website.

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The top ten albums of 2015

1. Kendrick Lamar – "To Pimp a Butterfly"

Labelled as the successor of Tupac Shakur and known in Compton as the African-American messiah, the best album of the year goes to the album that summed up every hip-hop album that has ever been released, combined them into one, while also featuring an intricate storyline. The Californian rap-god tackles topics such as self-love on “Complexion,” politics on “How Much a Dollar Cost” and race on “The Blacker the Berry.” K-Dot plays with the love he has for his Lucy; which can be interpreted as a metaphor about how evil is welcomed into our lives too easily, and his constant struggle with his inner demons. The hip-hop, jazz blend that Kendrick uses on the album fuses deep and meaningful lyrics, which makes it undoubtably the best album of the year.

2. Donnie Trumpet and the Social Experiment – “Surf”

Orchestrated by Nico Segal (a.k.a. Donnie Trumpet), “Surf” was one of the most anticipated albums of the year, with the help of front man and lead vocals Chance the Rapper. Along with Donnie and Chance, Peter Cottontale, Greg Landfair Jr. and Nate Fox make the 11-track album that summed up every hip-hop album that has ever been released, combined them into one, while also featuring an intricate storyline. The Californian rap-god tackles topics such as self-love on “Complexion,” politics on “How Much a Dollar Cost” and race on “The Blacker the Berry.” K-Dot plays with the love he has for his Lucy; which can be interpreted as a metaphor about how evil is welcomed into our lives too easily, and his constant struggle with his inner demons. The hip-hop, jazz blend that Kendrick uses on the album fuses deep and meaningful lyrics, which makes it undoubtably the best album of the year.

3. Jamie XX – “In Colour”

Yes, we all knew Jamie Smith from his previous work with The XX, but listeners did not know what to expect when Smith released his solo project “In Colour”. On both albums with The XX, Smith never once disappointed with the melodic sounds. However, on this 11-track album, Jamie completely visits a new realm in music. In fact, that was Smith’s intentions. He had been working on “In Colour” collectively for five years. Smith aimed to create an album unlike any other. Combining sound bits with groovy and acid-like beats, Smith capitalizes on the record. Smith uses a comfortable features approach with fellow XX members Romy on “SeeSaw” and “Loud Places” and independent songwriter Oliver Sim on “Stranger in a Room.” Then, he explores new areas outside his comfort zone with his clash with Young Thug and Popcaan on “I Know”.

4. ASAP Rocky – “At. Long. Last. ASAP”

There’s Gonna Be (Good Times).

Mark my words, 10 years from now, rappers will be referencing “At. Long. Last. ASAP” as a prelude to the album. Rocky released the best single of the year, “Multiply,” which set the serious yet inventive tone for the album. Hard beat songs such as “Capitol Street,” “53,” “Lord Pretty Flacko Jodye” and “M$” are perfect hard-hitting songs to listen to with heavy bass. However, Rocky experiments with new sounds on “Electric Body.”

5. Tame Impala – “Currents”

“Fine Wine” and “It’s Over” which combine slow beats and smooth vocals that add to the drug-album genre.

After two albums that had fans begging for more, guitarist and vocalist Kevin Parker and the rest of Tame Impala delivered quite a unique sensation with “Currents”. Using Pink Floyd-esque guitars and sounds, the album is an easy listen. The theme of break-up is seen almost evidently throughout songs such as “Eventually”. The somber, melancholy tone is seen through songs such as “Let It Happen” and “Cause I’m A Man”.


Logic’s diverse ability to rap on bars. This album gives Logic a claim to be one of the greats.

Synthesizing pop beats combined with a ballad guitar gives this album a sweet and easy listening groove.

Set in the future as two space travelers reminisce on when music was good, Logic’s sophomore album takes flight to all new heights. The 25-year-old rapper from Gathersburg, Maryland, continues to spit flows on godly levels, and this album does not disappoint. Stellar tracks, such as “I’ll Never Be the Same” and “Like Whoa,” highlight Logic’s diverse ability to rap on bars.

7. Alabama Shakes – “Sound in Color”

The ex-underground, R & B sensation Abel Tesfaye, better known as The Weeknd, found the limelight with “Beauty Behind the Madness.” Tesfaye delivers radio hits with the likes of “Often,” “Earned It,” “Can’t Feel My Face” and “The Hills,” but he does not float too far away from his roots. This album was as if he combined his first three mixtapes, “House of Balloons,” “Echoes of Silence” and “Thursday,” and picked what he liked best from each one. Transitioning from quickly trap sounds and orchestrated beats to the week this album goes through. “Tell Your Friends” is more for his long-time fans, using the line, “I was broken, I was broken, I was so broke,” fused to roam around the town when I was homeless… Now we get faded, when we want girl, we got choices.” The come-up for Tesfaye was a long journey, but now that he has made it, he bursts through in this album.

8. Drake – “If You’re Reading This It’s Too Late”

Drake was the most talked about artist of 2015, and this mix tape did not fail to give more credibility to Drake as an artist. The album, which came out in the first quarter of 2015, can still be listened to nowadays with total ease. Hits like “Energy” and “Know Yourself” are trap-filled and get the listener excited. Drake also slows it down with fellow Toronto artist partyNextDoor on “Prash” and “Wednesday Night Interlude.” “Jungle” can be related to his older sex-driven songs. “You and the 6” brings innocence to Drake by bringing his mom into the song as a metaphor for him venting on the harsh reality of fame. This album was a prelude to Drake’s fame for 2015, paving the way for his project with Future, “What A Time To Be Alive,” his beef with Meek Mill and having everyone singing “Hotline Bling.”


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10. Travis Scott – “Rodeo”

Maybe in the league of the darkest albums of the year, Rodeo gives trap/hip-hop lovers a new feel for dark and trap music. Features shine on this album and leave listeners wanting more out of Travis Scott.

Miguel – “Wildheart”

If you told me Miguel would be a part of this list at the beginning of the year, I would’ve called you crazy. However, this Cali-artist uses influences from Frank Ocean, Tre Song and Jeremiah to captivate the listener in this drug- filled wonderland of an album.

Mac Miller – “Good A.M.”

Mac’s constant battle with sobriety and moderation clashes with theology in this album. It’s an easy listen and separates Mac Miller from his stereotypical hype up music that he used to be about.

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Up All Night helps alleviate stress from finals week

Students who frequent the event meet new people, experience a sense of belonging and most of all create memories to last a lifetime.

- Nicole Aguilar, director of the Office of Student Life

"The Union is a place that gives our students what they need and want: additional study space, fun and engaging activities, camaraderie and most of all free food," Aguilar said. "This year, we're showing two screenings of the movie 'EVE' at 6 and 9 p.m. In addition, we have Resident Assistants in Dollars, a room games, photo booths, an art activity that will be announced and we get closer to the event." Free breakfast foods will be served all night, and although the menu for the evening has not been finalized, the Office of Student Life is already planning on having a wide range of foods.

"We are working on a variety of foods," Aguilar said. "We will definitely serve hot chocolate, momo do and other delicious foods." The purpose of the event is to give students an efficient place to study, while helping them foster a connection with the university.

"We want students to feel supported by faculty and staff," Aguilar said. "This is just one way to keep students engaged on campus and for us who volunteer to show support toward student success!"

The event will provide opportunities for students to study in groups or individually, and participants will have access to computers and projectors to make their studying experience more effective.

"There are many ways to achieve this and for Up All Night we've been able to create an evening full of interactive activities as well as opportunities to study," Aguilar said. Overall, the event is an opportunity for students to interact with their fellow classmates and find their academic niche at UTEP. "Students who frequent the event meet new people, experience a sense of belonging and most of all create memories to last a lifetime," Aguilar said. "By offering a variety of activities, we are able to tap into a greater audience, and we have something for everyone!"

Karen Escobar, senior accounting major, said she is considering attending the event and believes it can help grow a student's sense of community.

"I want to go to study with my friends because it can help us be more relaxed for our finals," Escobar said. "It helps us know that we are not alone since almost everyone is there for the same reason; to pass the exams and relieve stress!"

Besides providing many activities for a fun-filled night, the Up All Night event will also provide ample space, equipment and support for students studying for their finals.

"As much as we recognize students may need a brief break from studying, we also realize the importance of supporting those who choose to focus on simply that all evening," Aguilar said.

Students will have access to conference rooms in the Union Building, along with audio and visual equipment in each room. Students will also be able to utilize the Cyber Cafe and printing service, most of which can be accessed through wireless capabilities.

"Faculty and staff volunteers roam the facilities informing all students of the access to these amenities," Aguilar said. "In addition, we remind them the Union Building is open 24 hours that day and night!"

For more information about the Up All Night event, call 747-5648 or visit the Office of Student Life at 112 Union West.
‘A Christmas Carol’ to spread Christmas cheer at UTEP

BY FERNANDO LEON
The Prospector

December is a month full of joy and happiness. Christmas is one of the few holidays that bring these qualities to the community. As a way to celebrate this holiday season, the UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance will be showcasing their annual Christmas play, ‘A Christmas Carol’ - the famous, traditional play, is inspired by the Charles Dickens’ book that goes by the same name.

“A Christmas Carol” is a timeless Dickens classic, it’s probably one of the most well-known plays in the Western theatrical canon,” said Jay Stratton, director of the play. The book tells the story of a grumpy, bitter old man and the steps he takes to transform into a gentler, kinder and humble person. The transformation occurs due to the visitation of the ghost of a business partner’s unhappy spirit. The story continues with the appearance of three other ghosts: the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come.

Each year, the UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance invites the public to experience “A Christmas Carol” with different adaptations of this story all year. Each director is chosen every year to hand the project, so every show is different,” said Jesus Lopez, assistant stage manager of this year’s play. “Every single director has different perspectives on how the show must be performed and designed.”

According to Lopez, even though this is a play that is presented each year, it takes a lot of time in order to have everything ready for the opening date. “It takes about two months for the whole process.” Lopez said. “We begin with production meetings, in which the director and stage managing team meet with the production team to come up with a design. We also begin rehearsals early in order to have everything ready on time for tech week.”

With more than 10 years of being a producer that is part of UTEP’s Department of Theatre and Dance, the play, year by year, intends to bring joy and fun to the audience. “I think it’s good that they do these kind of events at UTEP because it gets families to get together and enjoy a good show,” said Sergio Hernandez, junior multimedia journalism major at UTEP.

Apart from being a family entertainment and a good way to start enjoying the holidays, this theatrical play showcases the talent that many UTEP theatre students have. “I really like the concept of UTEP making a play related to the holiday season. I think it is a good opportunity for theatre and dance students to expose everything that they learned during the semester,” said Angela Regez, senior art major at UTEP. “Besides, it is an opportunity for families, especially young family members that start to have vacations to have the chance to experience a professional-level theatre play at a very low cost.”

Everything from set, sound and lighting all work alongside the rehearsal process. Beyond this, there are administrative and marketing efforts working well in advance of the project. This play promises to be funny, heart-warming and very entertaining for all audiences and, of course, it is full of the seasonal atmosphere that Dickens portrays in his iconic book.

“I have been working in this play since the beginning of November and the work is laborious and time consuming, but we are doing great,” Lopez said. “The show is incredibly funny and human. People of all ages will be able to familiarize with the story and its characters.”

The play will be held on Dec. 13 and 20 at 2:30 p.m. and on Dec. 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wise Family Theatre in the Fine Arts Center at UTEP. Prices for tickets will vary from $8 to $24 and can be purchased at the theatre’s box office.

For more information about “A Christmas Carol,” visit UTEP’s Department of Theatre and Dance website at theadance.utepl.edu or call the department’s box office at (915) 747-5118.
Gracias a mi familia por todo su apoyo y por ayudarme en mi gran tarea. Dios te bendiga.

- Isabella

Dios te bendiga tu familia.

- Jesus

Thank you to my family and friends for their unwavering support.

- J. I.

Thank you for everything.

- Sarah

Thank you for your encouragement.

- Michael

Thank you for your patience and support.

- Laura

Thank you for helping me through it all.

- Vincent

Thank you for always being there for me.

- Emily

Thank you for all your love and for helping me get to this point.

- John

Thank you for always being there for me.

- Maria

Thank you for your love and support.

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- John
Thank you to everyone who supported me from day 1. I finally did it! Thank you to all family, friends, and professors who helped me throughout this time. Thank you to all family, friends, and professors who helped me throughout this time.

Mom + Dad and everyone else that supported my Journey, THANKYOU. 
I DO IT ON the goal post! I will make it happen.
Thank you to my family & friends. Thank you for all your support these past years. The love and encouragement you all provided is what made me do this.

To my two, family and friends. Thank you for coming along this ride. I took the plunge to get my degree. I love you all.

To my family and friends who have helped me throughout this time. I love you all. I love you.

To my family and friends who have supported me throughout this time. I love you all. I love you.

Thank you for your love and support.

This is my Circus...These are my Mountains. I did it! MEOW.

Mark Ariza
Thank you to all my family and friends.

This is my Circus...These are my Mountains. I did it! MEOW.

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

I love you all.

Ariana

Thank you to all my family and friends, thank you for your love and support.

This is my Circus...These are my Mountains. I did it! MEOW.

Mark Ariza

Thank you to all my family and friends, thank you for your love and support. I love you all.

Ariana

Thank you to all my family and friends, thank you for your love and support. I love you all.

Ariana
Graduating student pursues dream in illustration

BY JULIA HETTIGER

For many students, college is a form of creative expression. These students take classes that inspire them to work outside the lines by working on projects that take their artistic ambitions to the next level.

Leah Tellez, an art major who is graduating on Dec. 12, has built an artistic livelihood throughout her educational career at UTEP. Majoring in graphic design and minoring in drawing has allowed her to explore her artistic abilities in a brand-new way.

“I like doing illustrations that are fun and quaint,” Tellez said. “My drawings are inspired by memories, and I focus a lot on what we remember and how we remember it.”

Although she is pursuing what she loves, Tellez said there are many challenges she has had to overcome as both an artist and as a student. “I think the hardest part of being an art major, no matter what the discipline is, is to constantly be aware that what you’re doing is not fresh,” Tellez said. “In order to succeed, you need to reinvent yourself!”

To really let her personality shine through her work, Tellez said she has to put in a lot of effort to reach a level of artistic skill that allows her to follow her ambitions.

“You need to put in a lot of hard work to get where you can even think about creating yourself as an artist,” Tellez said. “Sometimes, it’s hard going from the technical to conceptual.”

Like many aspiring artists, Tellez’s love for art came to her at very young age and has flourished throughout her life.

“I have always loved art since I can remember,” Tellez said. “I was always drawing, ever since I was a kid.”

Tellez remained very involved in the art scene at UTEP through her job and volunteer work that has connected her with other artists.

“I work at the UTEP art department, which is right next door to the Rubin Center,” Tellez said. “I have volunteered at the Rubin Center whenever they have events and art shows, and I got really great exposure there.”

Art has been a big part of Tellez’s life and has impacted her in many ways, including in aspects she was not expecting.

“I would say the biggest way art has helped me is that it helped me develop critical thinking skills,” Tellez said. “When I’m working on my art, I need to look at things from an analytical point of view, and in a way it has also helped me develop my communication skills through my art.”

Once she graduates, Tellez hopes to continue her passion for drawing and graphic design in her career at a design studio here on the borderland.

“After graduation, I hope to stay here in El Paso working for a design studio here,” Tellez said. “Later on, I want to get my master of fine arts in graphic design, but in graduate school, I want to focus more on illustration.”

Julia Hettiger may be reached at theprospectordaily.un@utep.edu.
Men's team shows grit in Corpus Christi Classic

BY JAVIER CORTEZ, 747-7477

The UTEP volleyball team lost their last match of the season to New Mexico State last Wednesday on Nov. 25.

The UTEP volleyball team fell in their final match of the season against the New Mexico State Aggies 3-0 (25-23, 25-21, 25-23). Despite being outmatched, the Miners put up a strong fight to conclude their season, in one of the highest attended matches at Memorial Gym this season.

The match was emblematic of the Miners’ season, closely contested with short bursts of solid play, but not enough consistency to close out sets and come out with the win.

It's been a rebuilding season,” said senior Ashley Peak. “We have a lot of young girls and just three seniors graduating. They have to cover some ground as far as defense, but they are going to be stacked for next year. I think they’ll do pretty good.”

Peak, like many of the upperclassmen, had to endure a tough past two years, only seeing 16 wins in more than 60 matches. Although being excited for what the future holds, Peak will miss her time as a collegiate volleyball player.

“My feelings weird because I’ve been playing for 12 years, so I'm going to miss it,” Peak said. "I'm gonna miss the crowd, adrenaline, teammates, but I'll still come and watch them and support the Miners.”

Peak is graduating with a bachelor’s degree in marketing in December and is staying in El Paso to get her second bachelor’s in finance. Other departures besides Jones are Nattie Whitehair and Talia Jones. Whitehair was a defensive specialist who was in and out of matches, while Jones was the Miners’ premier offensive specialist at outside hitter for the past two seasons.

"It’s going to be tough to lose Talia (Jones),” said head coach Holly Watts. "She had her moments where she was unstoppable. We’ll have to recreate that.”

Jones was a bright spot in a very dim offensive attack that the Miners put out on the floor. The senior led the team in kills, with 329 this season. Despite Jones and a talented setter in Lindsay Larson, the Miners were unable to defend because of their defense.

"Our blocking and our defense were very good,” Watts said. "Our blocks and digger set in conference and national rankings were extremely high. We had a high hitting percentage and kills per set we averaged.”

The Miners posted one of the worst hitting percentages in Conference USA. The win totals were low; the statistics were bland and the individual accolades never poured in, but coach Watts saw growth from a very young team.

"I think there was a lot of growth,” Watts said. “There was some improvement in areas, but our offense is still young. We had some good players on the bench, who didn’t get a lot of opportunities this season, but they’ll have more opportunities in the future.”

This season showed that the Miners were simply a bad team, but their season was also hindered by injuries. Sophomore Colleen Cozens’ mid-season injury that saw her miss nearly the rest of the season was the straw that broke the camel’s back. The Belgium native suffered a collapsed lung, which effectively ended her season.

Coach Watts was forced to switch lineup, play players who would not be playing, while finding ways to combat continuous injuries.

Granted injuries are a part of sports, Watts and her players played no qualms about the injury-plagued season and chalked it up to the nature of the sport. It was a season of uncompleted goals, but the optimism for the future is still intact.

“It didn't go as we hoped,” Larson said. “But our goals were to make conference tournament and we are disappointed that we couldn't make it. We have a lot of work to do and we're excited for matches within this season. Next year, if we can build on finishing matches, we'll do really well.”

The UTEP volleyball team lost their last match of the season to New Mexico State last Wednesday on Nov. 25.
Women’s team wins fifth annual Thanksgiving Classic

1. Sophomore guard Lulu McKinney stops and pulls up for a mid-range jumper. 2. Senior guard Jazell Nash high five teammates during the pregame introductions. 3. Head coach Keitha Adams looks on as her team faces Idaho State. 4. Senior guard Camryn Turner raises the trophy after the Miners win over Idaho State. 5. Lulu McKinney uses a hesitation dribble before driving to the rim.
At the end of the day injuries were too much to overcome for UTEP Football

The Miners’ goal this season was to repeat last year’s bowl bid and eventually win the first bowl game for the University of Texas at El Paso since 1967. The Miners finished the year at 5-7 and without a bowl game bid for the second time in Sean Kugler’s three-year tenure at UTEP.

Aaron Jones went down in the second quarter of the season against Texas Tech, but the injury to Jones did more than add another loss. It set in motion what would become a prevalent theme in the Miners’ season—Injuries.

With a 0-2 record the Miners rallied against New Mexico State after being down 31-16 in the fourth quarter. Then again it was New Mexico State, the school with the worst losing streak in the country—17 losses in a row.

The Miners’ victories were often short lived this season. They only had one winning streak in the season and it was when they won the next week against Incarnate Word at home.

The Miners conference record of 5-7 did not paint a better picture for this team. The Miners may have lost their best player in the second week of the season, but the unorganized offense just proved that UTEP had no back up plan for Jones being out of the picture.

Added to the mix was a quarter-back carousel after Max Leftwich got hurt, which featured a glimpse of great quarterbacking out of Ryan Metz, and the turnover machine he became in the following weeks, as well as the horror that surrounded Kavika Johnson.

The losses piled up on a week-to-week basis, win one, lose one, win one, lose one. The Miners proved to be inconsistent, but the team saw injuries for most of the season, so it’s understandable.

However, the injuries do not explain why the team collapsed as a whole in every facet of the game. Jones didn’t play on the defense and Leftwich’s concussion did not make special teams struggle; it was an inconsistent team this season and they lacked a leader.

The losses on the scoreboard did not reflect the wins this team accomplished on a different level, as fans of the team got to see the future of this program. UTEP’s offense morphed after Jones was out and it took a different form, depending on who was the quarterback under center. When it was Leftwich, we got a glimpse of the running ability the young quarterback has, as well as his throwing accuracy.

Leftwich found a way to win games and a way to move the ball. He also found a way to take care of the ball as well as he only had three interceptions in the entire year.

Although he had three interceptions returned for touchdowns, he showed traces of a prototype pocket passing quarterback.

Two of the pick-six’s came in the same game, but despite his turnover problems, he helped junior wide receiver Cole Freytag here a break-out season. With Ryan Metz under center, Freytag had 14 receptions with three touchdowns.

Finally, Kavika Johnson, the third-string quarterback, got plenty of playing time with an offense that at times seemed to be welcoming any quarterback that stood out at practice.

The freshman quarterback played the best game of his career in the last game of the season against North Texas. The freshman had a running touchdown and a lob on a trick play that counted as a passing touchdown.

Overall, a 5-7 record is a losing record, but for these Miners, the odds were stacked against them from day one when the schedule was released, and just like in their last game of the season, where they had five turnovers, the Miners fought back.

The Miners were on the cusp of a bowl bid entering the last two games of the season. Against La. Tech, it was a missed field goal, against Old Dominion it was a lack of offense in the second half.

The Miners were always on the verge of turning their season around but they did not have enough in the injury-riddled team. Hopefully, when these young quarterbacks have time to mature and Jones is back they will turn the team around.

James Carlos Navarrete may be reached at theprospectordaily@etsu.edu.com.

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Give the Miners time and temper your expectations

BY JAMER CORTEZ
The Prospector

In the words of the great philosopher and former NFL Most Valuable Player, Aaron Rodgers, fans of the UTEP men’s basketball team and media members alike need to relax. The Miners are 0-6 for the first time in 15 years and the local media is already panning them up as the best team coach Floyd has had in his six years.

Let me preface the rest of this column by saying that I am staunch supporter for the Miners team and I wish them nothing but success. But this early season miscalculation and propagation that this team is really good needs to stop.

Granted, the Miners have lost six games and have won them all, but they have played against subpar teams for the most part and when you break down this team, there are plenty of flaws that will be exposed down the road.

This is all too similar to last season with the fast start of Victor Hunter. He was unguardable, a freak of nature, the best player on the team and NBA ready by all early season accounts.

Then conference play came around. Teams were prepared, they studied the tape and warmed up the former Miner. Granted, Hunter did play well in confidence, but his level of play did drop.

His field goal percentage dipped, turnovers were raised, while his propensity to foul stayed intact. Let’s not do this again with this team or any of its players.

This edition of the Miners is young, talented, at times very exciting, and promising for the future. With that being said, it is not fair to re-raise the level of expectations for a team that will most likely win 20 games and finish third in conference.

If the Miners win the conference, win 25 plus games and make the NCAA tournament, they overachieved. As previously stated, this team has a lot of flaws, and here are a few.

First is they have little to no front court depth. They lost 7 footer Matt Williams for the season, and freshman forward Brodicka Jones will be out for an extended period of time while he recovers after surgery on his meniscus (knee joint).

Second, is an overall lack of experience. Half of the team is comprised of freshmen, redshirt freshmen and junior college transfers. This is not a team that is filled with four-year seniors; they are young and inexperienced for the most part.

Lastly, they are still learning how to play at the collegiate level. Tim Floyd loves to employ man-to-man defense, and through six games, the team has showed they are not ready to see that type of system on a consistent basis.

As the season goes on, the Miners will gain the experience, learn how to grasp different concepts and find success but there is no way to offset injuries. Williams and Jones are not the only Miners who have to deal with being sidelined.

Josh McSwiggan is still recovering from a torn meniscus and dealing with eligibility issues. Omari Harris will not return until next season because of academic probation, and Tevin Caldwell already suffered a concussion this season.

I’ve covered the men’s team as extensively as any college journalist could and I can say with full certainty that this team is nowhere near being a lock for the NCAA tournament.

I am not writing this to diminish their early-season success, this is just a warning to all the UTEP Miner fans that create irrational expectations, which only lead to disappointment.

When it comes to UTEP athletics, the fans of El Paseo have become habitual complainers. Somehow the Miners are always a let down, failing to meet expectations, while never failing to blow their chances.

Fans who think like this do not come in watch these teams play if they do come, they are not really paying attention. Everything is black and white, no nuance and no consideration of circumstances. Take it from someone who is trying to make a living off covering this team; they are not that good yet, so give them time.

The level of immediacy in this town is unreal. Anytime there is a whirl of success, fans think it should be followed with more and more and more. For the love of God, let’s slow down and give this team time.

If you don’t want to listen to me or people with better insight on the team, that’s fine, but don’t say I didn’t warn you.

Juniors or may be reached at the prospector@utep.edu.

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A look back at the 2015 year in sports

1. Cruz Azul defeated the Tijuana Xolos 2-1 at the Sun Bowl. 2. Julio Cesar Chavez outdistanced fellow Mexican bower Marco Reyes at the Don Haskins Center. 3. All-American Anthony Rotich shows off his rings. 4. Tight end Cordrick Lang celebrates after scoring the game-winning touchdown against New Mexico State in Las Cruces.
IN BRIEF

EARVIN MORRIS GETS INDIVIDUAL PRAISE
UTEP Men's basketball guard Earvin Morris earned the Conference USA Player of the week Monday, Nov. 30 due to his stellar performance in the Corpus Christi Coastal Classic. Throughout the tournament, Morris scored a total of 70 points, 28 coming in the championship game against Colorado State. Morris scored 22 of his 28 points in the come-behind rally after halftime. He averaged 17.4 points per game, with a .559 field goal percentage and .733 free throw percentage.

UTEP MEN'S TEAM RECEIVES TOP 25 VOTES
After being crowned champions for the Corpus Christi Coastal Classic Tournament, the men's basketball team received NCAA top 25 votes. The undefeated squad is off to their best start in 15 years, and gained three votes in the Associated Press Poll and one vote in the USA Today Coaches Poll.

UTEP CROSS COUNTRY FINISHES 11TH AT NCAA'S
The UTEP Men's cross country barely slipped out of a top-10 finish at the NCAA Championships on Saturday, Nov. 21. Georgetown beat the Miners 352-354, respectively. Anthony Rothch and Jonah Koech were named United States Track and Field Cross Country Coaches Association All Americans for their success at the NCAA Championships.

FOOTBALL WILL GO THROUGH STAFF EVALUATION
Amid rumors of coaching departures, UTEP football head coach Sean Kugler announced that he would go through an evaluation of his staff.

MEN’S BASKETBALL INJURY REPORT
The men's basketball squad lost two players in Matt Wilms and Brodericks Jones. Center Matt Wilms will be sidelined for the remainder of the season, while Jones suffered a torn meniscus, which will retrain him from play from three to four weeks, or three to four months.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

RIVALRY NIGHT WEDNESDAY
The UTEP men's and women's basketball teams will both be in action on Wednesday against. The men's team will travel to Las Cruces to face New Mexico State in the Battle of 1-10 with 7 p.m. start time. The women's team will host the New Mexico Lobos at the Don Haskins Center with a 4:15 p.m. start time.

UT-ARLINGTON COMES TO TOWN
On Saturday, Dec. 5, the UTEP men's basketball team will host the battle tested University of Texas at Arlington Mavericks. The east Texas team has already made a name for themselves early in the season with wins over Ohio State and Memphis. UT-Arlington currently has a 5-1 record. The game is slated for 6:05.

SELECTION SUNDAY
Frankie's Sports Bar & Grille, located at 5850 Orin Dr, El Paso, TX, will host the selection of the two teams that will play in the 82nd annual Hyundai Sun Bowl. The Atlantic Coastal Conference and Pacific-12 conference will both send on team.

54TH ANNUAL SUN BOWL INVITATIONAL
The 2015 Don Haskins Sun Bowl Basketball Invitational is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 21 and Tuesday, Dec. 22. This year's competitors will join UTEP are, University of California at Irvine, Norfolk State and Sam Houston State. The Miners have won the Sun Bowl Invitational three consecutive years.

82ND ANNUAL HYUNDAI SUN BOWL GAME
The nation's second oldest bowl game is back again for the 82nd time. The ACC and Pac-12 will represent their respective conference, as the game is slated for a noon kickoff on Dec. 26. The game will be televised by CBS. Tickets are on sale, with prices ranging from $22 $32 $47 $57 and $62. Tickets also available at TicketMaster outlets beginning August 1, 800-745-3000, or www.ticketmaster.com