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The art car parade was a main attraction of this year’s Alpine Artwalk. See more colorful Artwalk photos on pages 14-15.

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Activism in Alpine
Aging Buildings, Part 4
The Last Five Years
‘Lions of West Texas’
Teacher of the Year visits
Commencement speaker
Drone demonstration
Herp Day
Lobo Days
Where’s Sully?
Artwalk 2017
Sports
When I first transferred to Sul Ross State University in the Fall of 2015, I was 19 years old and didn’t care much about anything other than passing my classes and sleeping. The only people I knew who cared about politics and social issues were my parents, people their age, or political science majors, and I didn’t have time for other people’s problems.

Things started to change when I joined Rotaract. It was a new club on campus and basically the college equivalent of Rotary International, a huge community service organization. My boyfriend at the time had been asking me to come to the meetings for a couple weeks, telling me it would look great on graduate school applications and resumes, so I went to a few meetings. The first fundraiser I participated in was selling t-shirts for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. We ended up raising enough money that we were sent a thank you plaque from the Foundation. It was then that I realized the impact that activism can have on the world around me. Next thing I know, I was elected secretary for the club and asked to organize a bake sale that took place at both grocery store locations, and we raised a significant amount for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. After that, things began to snowball as we volunteered at the Alpine food bank, raised money for those affected by the Flint, Michigan, water crisis, and the 2015 Houston flooding. The next year, I was elected vice president. As we were getting the semester’s projects ready to go, the first friend I made at Sul Ross, Zuzu Verk, went missing. For the rest of the semester, our time and energy was spent raising money for her family, participating in search parties scouring the surrounding area looking for her, and organizing prayer vigils both on and off campus.

At the same time, I was also taking a women’s history class with Ms. Kendra DeHart. I have always had a feminist mindset, but had not been very active until after this class. After watching *Gloria: In Her Own Words* during class, I had found my role model. Gloria Steinem got her start as a journalist, and after writing a story on the women’s movement, she founded *Ms. Magazine* and became one of the most well-known feminist speakers in the country. With her as my inspiration, I began researching activism and it was then I discovered my “life plan.” I changed my major to communication and got serious about journalism, feminism and politics, which was convenient, because the 2016 election was happening at the same time. It was the first presidential election that I could vote in, and one of the most ridiculous spectacles imaginable. The historic first female presidential candidate from a major political party was up against a candidate who was compared to the Zodiac Killer and the other was a reality TV personality: the “you’re fired” guy from *The Apprentice*.

As the campaigns went on, I realized that regardless of who won, they could do very badly. Violence at rallies, sexual assault allegations, name calling, scandals, and rising racial tension became the norm around the country. Election day came. I dressed in blue and even bought a blueberry donut to accentuate my Instagram post “Donut forget to vote.” Even as I was excited for the possibility that we could have our first female president, I was nervous for the future; I voted. That night I sat on the floor and watched the results roll in. A feeling of fear and hopelessness began creeping in as the final results came in and Donald Trump was elected the 45th president of the United States. Fear quickly changed to anger, and finally determination. I would not sit back and let the man who ran his campaign on hate ruin this country. On inauguration day, I participated in the Women’s March in town, along with a surprising number of students and members of the community. It was cold and rainy, but it was nice to know that I wasn’t alone.

My time here at Sul Ross is coming to a close, as I am graduating in May 2018. I have had my share of good times and bad, met some of the most amazing people, and have discovered myself, or who it is I hope to be. This world has shown me that things are far from perfect; however, it has also taught me that through education and effort anyone can make a positive impact. I have no illusion that anyone can single-handedly change the world. But I will do my part to make the world a better place one day at a time.

I know what I will do. What about you?
PART FOUR: AGING BUILDINGS

ISSUES WITH MOUNTAINSIDE
AND WARNOCK SCIENCE BUILDINGS

Reporter
Malyssa Reed

Before the opening of Lobo Village, the four-story, air-conditioned Mountainside Hall housed the Residential Living offices as well as 336 students, with men occupying one wing and women the other. Mountainside can no longer be used for that. Due to asbestos in the building, some of its corridors and floors are closed off from use. Part of the first floor is used by Residential Living and other programs for storage. Mountainside is also the location of the Upward Bound offices.

It may be confusing as to why a building that can’t be used for living is being used for office space. A portion of the first floor has been renovated. In that portion, the air system is completely separate from the rest of the building and sealed off from the off-limits part of the building.

The employees in Mountainside like the office and enjoy that they are on their own air, internet, and phone systems. They are the building’s only occupants and seem to prefer the larger accommodations to being in the smaller offices common around campus.

There is, however, a serious issue with the parking lot. Res Life, Aramark, the Physical Plant, and a few other university departments have used part of the parking lot as a “dumping” ground. This area is not easily viewed due to the hill and the way Mountainside is built. If this pile gets too big it could be a problem for parking.

Another building once used for residential space is Graves Pierce. The athletic sections of that building have been renovated and are completely safe, but the storage space known to students as the “Bat Cave” does have asbestos and black mold. During this past summer, heavy rains exacerbated the mold and ruined some furniture stored there by the Theatre Department. Rather than have the problem professionally remediated (black mold is known to cause serious health problems), students who were given gloves and face masks scrubbed the mold off the floors and removed the ruined furniture.

On a more positive note, positive change is happening around the rest of campus; many problems brought up in past Skyline articles in this series have been and are being addressed.

That change is obvious in the Science building. When the building was originally renovated, the acid neutralizer machine was left exposed and it was not cleaned or maintained. The machine had not been functioning since last summer, but work began three weeks ago and is currently underway.

Two problems in the Warnock Science Building are the extreme temperatures—due to a mix-up with the air system during renovations—and the elevator, which has not worked for most of this year. While the temperature fluctuations are a fairly common problem, the lack of a working elevator causes accessibility issues. Work on the acid neutralizer has cut off the first-floor’s wheelchair-accessible entrance, leaving only the second floor easily accessible. This situation makes it hard for students with injuries or physical disabilities to get to classes, labs and offices on the first and third floors.

The good news is that the administration is aware of these problems and students, faculty and staff should see positive changes in the near future.
The Last Five Years is a musical written and composed by Jason Robert Brown depicting a five-year relationship’s rise and fall. It is a beautiful show that depicts the challenges both characters face as their relationship falls apart. This production was directed by Ashley Jane Page as her master’s project.

Before the play began, I was intrigued by the set design. It was a solid black stage with picture frames of different styles, sizes, colors, and positions suspended from the ceiling. It really brought out a reminiscent mood throughout most of the show.

The production has only two characters, Jamie and Cathy. Jamie is a writer who is able to achieve his dreams of publishing a novel. Cathy is an aspiring Broadway actress who continues to struggle to achieve her dreams.

Cathy (Sedia Rashid) and Jamie (Josh Martinez) spend all but one scene acting with a person who is not actually on stage. It is an incredibly difficult acting technique, but when well done, it draws the audience members into the memories of the character. It was delightful to experience.

One of my favorite things about this show is that we were able to see the characters’ relationship begin and fall apart at different times. The show follows Jamie’s side of the story chronologically, while Cathy’s is told backwards. This motion shows the push and pull of their relationship and ultimately its demise. The opening number, “Still Hurting,” performed by Cathy, illustrates her devastation after Jamie has left. It is a beautiful and heartbreaking number that shows the amount of pain she is in. The next song, “Shiksa Goddess,” performed by Jamie, is about falling in love with Cathy.

The characters often share the stage, but only share one scene together. The center of the “X” motion of the show is the scene where they become engaged. “The Next Ten Minutes” is one of the most tear-jerking songs in the whole show. It shows both characters’ hesitation and their resolve to make their relationship last. It was even more powerful since it was the only time the characters were in the same moment.

It was apparent that the actors, director and crew worked hard to make the unconventional structure of the play work, despite its appearance of simplicity. I commend everyone who worked on this show. Unfortunately, it ran for only two weekends in November, so if you missed it, you missed out on a wonderful experience.
‘LIONS OF WEST TEXAS’
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SHOWCASES
BRI MOUNTAIN LION RESEARCH

Mountain lion research conducted by the Borderlands Research Institute (BRI) at Sul Ross State University is featured in a short film produced by Texas filmmaker Ben Masters that is an official selection of National Geographic’s short film showcase. The film, “Lions of West Texas,” may be viewed on National Geographic’s website at the following link: https://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/short-film-showcase/see-why-the-mysterious-mountain-lion-is-the-bigfoot-of-big-cats.

Masters followed in the footsteps of BRI researchers who are studying various aspects of the mountain lions that roam West Texas. Over the course of several months, Masters gathered film footage, interviewed scientists, and created a short film chronicling some of the findings.

“The research data that Borderlands Research Institute is collecting is definitely worthy of National Geographic coverage,” said Masters. “They’re on the cutting edge of wildlife research and are slowly unravelling some of the ecological mysteries that have fascinated Texans for centuries. I look forward to seeing how the data they collect will impact the future of Texas landscape conservation and wildlife management.”

BRI began the research project in 2011 after area landowners began asking questions about mountain lions and their role as apex predators in the Davis Mountains. Over 95% of the funding for the project came from private citizens and foundations. So far, researchers have captured and collared 25 adult and sub-adult cats in the Davis Mountains of West Texas and Big Bend National Park. The satellite GPS collars document the location of the animals every three hours and the information is transmitted to BRI computers daily.

Research objectives include learning more about predator-prey dynamics, diet composition, and use of lion kill sites by scavengers such as vultures and coyotes. Researchers are also evaluating the most efficient and effective way to determine density and population size. Testing techniques include using various types of cameras and studying the animals’ droppings (scat). Early findings include some encouraging news about mountain lions and feral hogs.

“We suspected that depredation on livestock was low, but were surprised that out of all of the sites we investigated, no livestock were found,” said Harveson. “This doesn’t mean that they are never killed by mountain lions, but it does suggest that in the Davis Mountains, livestock depredation is rare.”

Bert Geary is a BRI research technician working with Harveson on the study. He worked closely with Masters during the field shoots for the film. The film premiered during the recent Wild Texas Film Tour through 13 Texas cities.

“I can really see Ben Masters’ passion about mountain lions shine through in this film,” said Geary. “It was really interesting and exciting to be a part of this documentary and to see how it grew from some rough ideas into the finished film. Being part of the Wild Texas Film tour and getting to talk about mountain lions and answer questions about them with so many differing people has been a great experience.”

In just over a week, “Lions of West Texas” has garnered over one million online views.

“It is truly an honor to help tell their story and spread their research with a film,” said Masters. “I just hope they keep letting me tag along with a camera!”

For more information, contact Dr. Louis Harveson at 432-837-8225 or lharveson@sulross.edu.

For more than a decade, the Borderlands Research Institute has encouraged effective land stewardship of the Chihuahuan Desert. Housed at Sul Ross State University, the Borderlands Research Institute builds on a long-lasting partnership with private landowners, the university’s Range and Wildlife Program, and cooperating state, federal, and non-governmental organizations. Through research, education, and outreach, the Borderlands Research Institute is helping to conserve the last frontier of Texas and the Southwest.
TOEDT PRESENTS AT
TEXAS MATHEMATICS CONFERENCE


Dr. Kris Jorgenson, professor of Mathematics and Toedt’s faculty adviser, moderated the session in which Robert presented. Dr. Angela Brown and senior Dominic Carrillo, Midland, also attended the conference, held at the University of the Incarnate Word.

Toedt presented his senior project seminar Nov. 17 at Sul Ross.

For more information, contact Jorgenson, 432-837-8398 or kjorgenson@sulross.edu.
ONE PERSON
IN THE MIDST OF THOUSANDS

BIG SCARY CLOWNS WITH RED BALLOONS AS GUNS

Reporter
Malyssa Reed

Big Scary Clowns with Red Balloons as Guns is a one-man show written and performed by Miguel Peña. This show is his final project for his Master of Liberal Arts.

This show has a theme of life and death and is the story of Peña’s life. When Peña was five, his 21-year-old brother passed away. Miguel talks about not really knowing his brother and the ways his brother’s death has shaped him.

Peña has been working on this show for over a year. He reveals a lot of personal things in this show: surgeries, puberty, his first girlfriend, etc., but mostly his brother.

He said, “I wanted to write a show about different people, but as I wrote this is what happened. I still want to write this kind of show about other people, but I feel now that [this play] is really the first step to being able to write that type of show.”

“I am very appreciative of the theatre department for being so supportive of me,” Peña said. “I want them to know that, but am unsure of how to say it.”

His message to students coming to see the show is: “Be open to what I have to say. If you disagree or hate it, feel free to leave, but just be open to it.”

The show is being presented in the FAB Studio Theatre today and tomorrow (Dec. 1 and 2) at 8:15 pm. I suggest you go. Please note that this show is not appropriate for children under 18.

Leadership from the University of Incarnate Word. He is also a Certified Public Accountant and private pilot.

A member of the Uvalde Memorial Hospital Board of Directors since 2001, Gonzales served as chairman from 2010-2013. He led the hospital’s strategic planning process that included the development of the Kate Marmion Regional Cancer Center.

Gonzales, a Uvalde resident, is active in Sacred Heart Catholic Church and chairs the annual parish festival. He and his wife, Jaclyn, are the parents of a daughter, Mia.

Dr. Hector Gonzales

Dr. Hector Gonzales, 10th President of Southwest Texas Junior College and a Sul Ross State University alumnus, will deliver the commencement address at Sul Ross-Alpine fall ceremonies Friday, Dec. 15.

Commencement exercises will be held at 7 p.m. in the Pete P. Gallego Center. Rio Grande College ceremonies will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16 in the Uvalde High School Auditorium. Ismael Naveja Macias, Mexican Consul in Eagle Pass, will deliver the RGC commencement address.

Gonzales was appointed the 10th President of SWTJC on Aug. 1, 2013. He spent eight years as the college’s chief academic and chief financial officer and has worked there since 1999. In 2011, he was recognized by President Barack Obama and the White House as a Champion of Change for Community Colleges. In 2012, he helped lead SWTJC toward recognition as a Top 10 Community College by the Aspen Institute.

Gonzales attended SWTJC in 1988, transferred to Angelo State University, and received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1992, majoring in Accounting. While at ASU, he was active in Delta Sigma Pi. He later attended Sul Ross, graduating with a Master’s of Business Administration in 1996. He taught at RGC as an adjunct faculty member. In 2012, Gonzales earned his doctorate in Organizational Leadership from the University of Incarnate Word. He is also a Certified Public Accountant and private pilot.

A member of the Uvalde Memorial Hospital Board of Directors since 2001, Gonzales served as chairman from 2010-2013. He led the hospital’s strategic planning process that included the development of the Kate Marmion Regional Cancer Center.

Gonzales, a Uvalde resident, is active in Sacred Heart Catholic Church and chairs the annual parish festival. He and his wife, Jaclyn, are the parents of a daughter, Mia.
The McNair Program and Wildenthal Memorial Library joined forces to present several STEM Fridays programs showcasing what Sul Ross has to offer in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. On Nov. 10, Dr. Kevin Urbanczyk put on a drone demonstration.

photos courtesy of Dominique Vargas
At this year’s Herp Day on Nov. 11, children played games designed to show how snakes move.

Dr. Chris Ritzi lets children examine a toad up close and personal.

Dr. Sean Graham talks to children about snakes.

Curious children take turns touching a snake.

photos by Vashti Armendariz
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This year’s Alpine Artwalk, held Nov. 17-18, brought the popular art cars back for a Saturday parade. In keeping with the automotive theme, car and truck hoods were painted and displayed by area artists. Sul Ross student artists also had artwork displayed and for sale.

The Alpine Artwalk is one of the largest art festivals in West Texas and attracts tourists from all over who enjoy the music, food, parades and auctions as well as a wide variety of excellent local and area art.

Top left: "Selena" by Calandria Martinez
ALPINE, TEXAS

Top left: "Cowboy Marty," by Monica Saenz
Center right: "Laika," by Kacey Barton
Photos by Susanna Mendez
FOOTBALL/BASEBALL

FOOTBALL ENDS SEASON WITH WIN OVER BELHAVEN

James Davis wrapped up his Sul Ross career with two touchdown runs and threw for two more as the Lobos claimed a 34-27 victory over host Belhaven University in the 2017 season closer Nov. 11 in Jackson, MS.

Davis found Steven Savedra early in the opening quarter on a 90-yard touchdown launch. Eli Lopez converted the extra attempt at the 12:25 mark.

Davis then scored the first of his two touchdown runs at 7:40 off a two-yard trot finishing off a five-play, 61-yard drive. Lopez’s kick sailed through the uprights, giving the visiting Lobos a 14-0 advantage.

Belhaven lit the board on the ensuing drive with a 64-yard TD pass. Belhaven’s extra point try was blocked with 6:57 remaining in the first quarter.

Davis reached pay dirt again late in the second period on a 37-yard run that capped eight plays and 89 yards. Lopez booted the extra point for a 21-6 Sul Ross favor with 3:25 left before the break.

With 24 seconds remaining, a Blazer score and extra point pulled the host team to within eight heading to intermission.

On the first offensive play of the third quarter, Andre Wilson trekked 60 yards into the Blazer end zone. Lopez fired off the PAT to spread the Lobo lead to 15.

An eight-yard pass from Davis to Byron Jones completed a nine-play, 61-yard march. Lopez missed his first PAT of the season on a blocked kick, but Sully sported a 34-13 advantage with 8:43 left in the third.

The Blazers tightened the margin with two more strikes in the third and fourth periods. Both extra point kicks were good as the Lobos ran the clock out and secured the 34-27 victory.

For the game, Sul Ross posted 530 yards of total offense including a season-high 294 on the ground.

Davis completed 13 of 20 passes for 236 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Jordan Batson netted 84 yards off of 14 carries while Wilson tallied 76 yards and a touchdown.

Davis scored twice on the rush with 71 yards and 16 carries. Savedra bagged three receptions for 151 yards and a score.

Jones totaled 49 yards off of six catches and a touchdown.

Sarkeithian Thomas led the defense with eight tackles (6 solo, 2 assists). Mike Quiñonez, Derrick Winter and Jermaine Stevens, Jr. collected a breakup each in the effort.

The Lobos finish 2017 with an overall record of 5-5, 4-5 in the ASC.

BASEBALL PLAYERS HELP KEEP ALPINE BEAUTIFUL

Thirty members of the Sul Ross baseball team with Bobby Mesker, head coach, helped fill an empty cargo trailer with tires for recycling at the Hal Flanders Recycling Center Nov. 9.

“The Lobos made light work of the pile of tires and surpassed any expectation I had,” said Patsy McWilliams, Keep Alpine Beautiful coordinator. “[The students] chipped in, forming a bucket brigade, moving tires with rims out of the way, stacking the rimless ones in the trailer.”

Each year, the baseball team volunteers for community service at the recycling center and helps with moving and loading tires and other heavy items. This year they filled the container in record time. In less than 50 minutes, it was full and ready to be shipped to State Rubber in Denver City.

“And not to be outdone, Coach Mesker was right in the mix,” McWilliams said. “He was working just as hard as any of his players.”
CROSS COUNTRY/POST-SEASON PICKS

PARKER REPRESENTS
AT REGIONAL CROSS COUNTRY

Joseph Parker finished 71st out of 220 competitors at the South-Southeast Regional Cross Country Championships Nov. 11. Parker timed in at 26:24.6 in the 8K which was a 32.4 one-hundredths of second better than his third place run at this year’s American Southwest Conference meet in Round Rock.

ELEVEN GRIDDERS
GET POST SEASON HONORS

Steven Savedra, Mike Quiñonez and Zack Roberson represent Sul Ross State University on the 2017 American Southwest Conference First Team All-Conference list.

Savedra, a senior tight end, led the team in receiving with 34 receptions for 593 yards and six touchdowns.

A senior linebacker, Quiñonez led the Lobo defense this season with 94 tackles (57 solo/37 assists) with 30 stops for loss of yards. He recorded a second team-best 3.5 sacks for a loss of 18 yards. Quiñonez also posted a forced fumble.

Roberson, a 2016 All-American defensive lineman, finished with 57 tackles (37 solo/20 assists) and tallied a team-best 5.5 sacks for a loss of 24 yards.

Other Lobos receiving post-season recognition include senior quarterback James Davis and sophomore running back Jordan Batson.

Davis earned a Second Team All-ASC honor after running for a team-high 506 yards off of 101 carries and six touchdowns. Davis also completed 127 of 239 passes for 1818 yards and 14 scoring strikes.

Batson also garnered Second Team All-Conference recognition after a second team-best 417 yards and two touchdowns off of 87 rushes.

Freshman punter Manuel Retana was named to the Second Team All-ASC Special Team after averaging 46 yards per punt.

Junior wide receiver Byron Jones, senior wide receiver Jeremy Reed, junior guard Montay Harris, senior tackle Juan Olivo and sophomore kicker Eli Lopez were named 2017 ASC Honorable Mentions.

Jones caught a second team-high 36 receptions for 537 and six touchdowns while Reed grabbed 17 catches for 276 yards and three scores.

Lopez was 8-of-10 on field goals and nailed a season-long 36-yarder against Howard Payne in October. He was 34-of-35 on extra point kicks.
BASKETBALL

LOBO MEN OPEN SEASON 2-1
Coach Clif Carroll’s Lobos opened the 2017-18 men’s basketball season with road wins at Louisiana College (77-60, Nov. 16) and East Texas Baptist (82-80, Nov. 17) before falling at Division II Lubbock Christian University 79-65 Nov. 21.

Sul Ross stays on the road through Dec. 4 with games at Trinity University (Nov. 28), UT-Dallas (Dec. 2) and University of the Southwest (Dec. 4). The Lobos open the home schedule at the Gallego Center against LeTourneau University (Dec. 9) and East Texas Baptist (Dec. 11).

C.J. Ross’ 13 points led five players in double figures at Louisiana College as Sul Ross expanded a 41-33 halftime lead. Caleb Thomasson, B.J. Hollis and Brock Anders notched 11 each and Conner Dawson added 10.

Thomasson scored 26 points and Ross added 12 as the Lobos rallied from a 46-39 intermission deficit against ETBU. Stephen Walker supplied nine points and nine rebounds, while Dawson tallied eight points.

LCU jumped to a 42-29 halftime lead and maintained the margin in toppling the Lobos. Thomasson tallied 14, Hollis 11 and Ross 10.

LADY LOBOS 0-4 AS BASKETBALL SEASON OPENS
Sul Ross State University’s women’s basketball team opened the 2017-18 season with four road defeats.

Coach Katie Peebles’ Lady Lobos fell 74-57 at Texas Lutheran Nov. 18, then dropped a 75-43 verdict at Schreiner University the following day. Losses to Nebraska Wesleyan (102-47, Nov. 24) and College of St. Scholastica (65-53, Nov. 25) followed at the Rocky Mountain Thanksgiving Invitational in Colorado Springs, CO.

Angalyn Latin tallied 25 points and pulled down nine rebounds in the season opener at TLU. Jessy Stanley and Taylor Gass added nine and eight points, respectively. Latin and Milan Barnes notched eight points apiece at Schreiner, while Jasmine Valdez scored seven.

Stanley and Latin scored nine points each against Nebraska Wesleyan, while Gass had eight and handed out five assists. Latin netted 14 against St. Scholastica, while Gass and Valdez each contributed seven points and seven boards. Stanley had five assists.

Sul Ross traveled to UT-Dallas Saturday (Dec. 2) before returning to the Gallego Center for home games against Schreiner (Dec. 6), LeTourneau University (Dec. 9) and East Texas Baptist (Dec. 11).
GO LOBOS!

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For Classes Meeting on:

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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Tuesday/Thursday</th>
<th>Wednesday, Dec. 13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 am</td>
<td></td>
<td>8 am-10 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>10:15 am-12:15 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>12:30 pm-2:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Night Classes</td>
<td></td>
<td>6 pm-8 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Final exams in Labs and Physical Education activity courses will be given during the last class period of the semester. For times not listed, consult with your instructor.*