

A change in commencement plans

Three ceremonies planned for Dec. 19 after students complain

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley has changed its plans for Fall 2015 graduation after hearing students complain about having to travel across the Valley for the ceremony.

Students will be assigned to a ceremony based on the location where they took the most classes since the start of their academic career.

UTRGV had planned to have a ceremony on each campus with the colleges being split between the Hidalgo and Brownsville venues.

Initially, physics senior Keeisi Caballero voiced her displeasure with the original commencement plans. After learning about the new graduation plan, Caballero said she likes it better than the old one.

“I think it’s very good that they have decided to do that,” Caballero said. “It wouldn’t have meant anything if you graduate at [the Edinburg campus] if you took all your classes [at the Brownsville campus]. ... I’m very happy about the new plans for the graduation ceremony.”

In an interview with *The Rider*, Alberto Adame, president of the UTRGV Student Government Association, said



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Sociology senior Bree Blain, tries on a graduation gown during the Graduation Fair held Oct. 28 in the Brownsville campus bookstore.

Fall 2015 Commencement		
Ceremony Details: All colleges will participate in one ceremony		
Saturday, Dec. 19		
Ceremony begins at 9 a.m. (Graduates check-in at 7:30 a.m.)		
Brownsville Campus (Student Union Lawn)		
Ceremony Details: College of Engineering & Computer Science, College of Liberal Arts, or College of Sciences.		
Saturday, Dec. 19		
Ceremony begins at 2 p.m. (Candidates check-in at 12:30 p.m.)		
State Farm Arena (Hidalgo, Texas)		
Ceremony Details: College of Business & Entrepreneurship, College of Education and P-16 Integration, College of Fine Arts, or College of Health Affairs.		
Saturday, Dec. 19		
Ceremony begins at 6 p.m. (Candidates check-in at 4:30 p.m.)		
State Farm Arena (Hidalgo, Texas)		

MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

he was also concerned after hearing the original plans for Fall 2015 commencement.

“I automatically thought to myself, ‘That is going to be a really bad idea to split the colleges,’” Adame said last Thursday. “You have some students that have been going to Brownsville for their whole academic careers and they really looked forward to graduating in [Brownsville] and now because of UTRGV they’re going to change that. The same [concerns are surfacing] for the Edinburg students. It was just very inconvenient.”

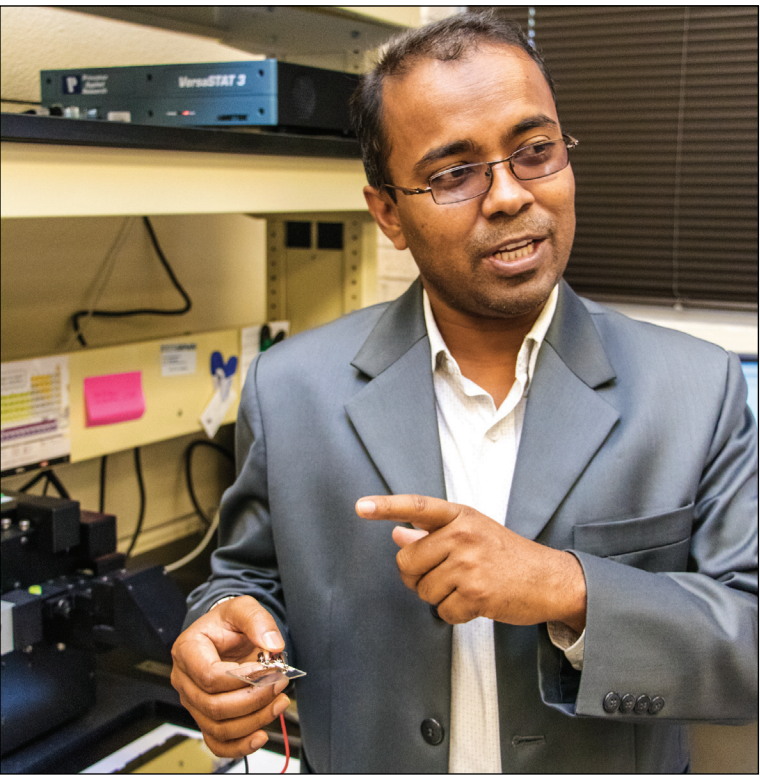
Adame said he contacted UTRGV Student Success Vice President Kristin Croyle to discuss the graduation ceremony plans and potential complaints that might have surfaced.

“We had a decision and [Adame] approached us and asked us to reconsider that decision,” Croyle said last Wednesday. “That’s why there was uncertainty because we were reconsidering and trying to figure out the best way it would benefit students.”

See GRAD, Page 8

Threads of energy

Research team receives \$125K from Defense Department for multipurpose ‘smart uniform’



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Jasim Uddin explains how organic carbon-based 3-D flexible cells absorb photon radiation to produce electrical energy. Uddin’s research team is the first in the world to produce extremely high energy efficiency in this kind of material.

Oscar Castillo
THE RIDER

A University of Texas Rio Grande Valley research team is the first in the world to produce extremely high energy efficiency

using organic carbon-based 3-D flexible cells, according to preliminary results.

“We are producing radiation from [a solar simulator],” Jasim Uddin, principal investigator and visiting associate professor,

said during a tour of the Brownsville campus lab Nov. 9. “It has [ultraviolet light], it has [infrared radiation], it has other radiation. It is exposing to the cell. The cell is sensing and converting from photon to current ... from light to electrical energy.”

James Moore, co-principal investigator and Chemistry Department chair, said the difficult part was converting sunlight into electrical energy. He said a lot of efficiencies they have seen previously are between 5 percent and 7 percent for organic carbon-based 3-D flexible cells.

“Just on early results, it looks like we might be somewhere in 10, 15 percent, maybe more,” Moore said. “So, we might be tripling what or doubling what’s already out there right now, for this type of device.”

Besides breaking ground using the flexible cells, the research team received a \$125,000 grant two weeks ago from the U.S. Defense Department to create a “smart uniform” prototype.

Made of nanostructured photoactive thin film, the uniform would self-clean, be anti-microbial and have protective properties against radiation exposure.

Uddin said preliminary tests

See DEFENSE, Page 10

Giving thanks in abundance

Brownsville’s 23rd and McAllen’s 25th Feast of Sharing



KARINA AGUIRRE/FILE PHOTO

Brownsville residents enjoy the 2014 Feast of Sharing in the Jacob Brown auditorium on the Texas Southmost College campus.

Monica Gudiño
THE RIDER

The holiday season is upon us and in the spirit of sharing, H-E-B is setting the table for more than 250,000 people across Texas.

The grocery store chain will host its annual Feast of Sharing from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday at the Jacob Brown Auditorium in Brownsville. A feast in McAllen was held on Sunday.

H-E-B sponsors the event in 31 cities across Texas and Mexico to give back to the community.

“Our main purpose is the fact that we want to bring the people in the community together,” said Yvonne Loflin, H-E-B border region public affairs specialist. “We want to thank them. We also want to provide hunger relief for any family, anybody in the community that needs assistance.”

With the help of hundreds of volunteers, the company is prepared to serve between 8,000 to 12,000 meals Wednesday in Brownsville and more than 250,000 in the state, Loflin said.

See FEAST, Page 8

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Five minutes to save a life

Be The Match drive continues to help patients with blood cancers and other diseases

Rick R. Ramirez
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Three years ago, Nolan Maddux Naranjo underwent a stem cell transplant from his mother to treat aplastic anemia, which he had been fighting for over a year.

Now 8 years old, Nolan is healthy and doing well. His struggle with the disease was previously reported in the University of Texas at Brownsville newspaper, *The Collegian*.

Nolan, who was 4 at the time, had to rely on blood transfusions to keep him alive when his illness became aggressive. While options and time seemed limited for the Naranjo family, they sought help through GenCure's Be The Match stem cell and marrow drive.

"We got a phone call from a Be The Match coordinator about a year into [Nolan's] illness," said Nolan's mother Jennifer Naranjo. "They told us that there was a Hispanic male that was a match for him. So, we were ecstatic but, unfortunately, he withdrew himself from the registry."

Desperate parents, Jennifer and Bernardino Naranjo, were tested and identified as a "half match." They were told by doctors that the stem cell



COURTESY PHOTO

Nolan Maddux Naranjo and his mother, Jennifer Naranjo.

transplant would be extra risky due to them not being a full match.

Nolan's mother was chosen as the donor for her son.

"The odds are stacked against you even more for a half match," Jennifer Naranjo said. "I have to stress that it's like a miracle, I think, because most people who undergo a half match

transplant, the odds are not in their favor at all. So, Nolan is a total walking miracle."

Three years later, despite minor setbacks, Nolan is healthier than ever. He is back in school and enjoys playing baseball.

"This story is a happy ending, but the Be The Match is so important because there are so

many [patients] who don't have a match and don't make it," Jennifer Naranjo said.

Samuel Hillhouse, a community engagement representative for GenCure, helped coordinate the Be The Match drive on the UTRGV Brownsville campus last week.

Hillhouse remembers the Naranjo family and their

experiences.

"Two years ago he was fighting for his life and he had this community helping him," he said. "I'm happy to report that now he's a healthy boy and he doesn't have to worry about this stuff anymore."

As in Nolan's case, finding a full match can be difficult, especially in the Hispanic community.

"For every 540 people that get on the registry, only one person will match a patient," Hillhouse said. "Hispanics currently only make up about 10 percent of the registry. Really, the whole U.S. looks towards this region of Texas to change that."

Hillhouse emphasized the importance of fully understanding the significance of the Be The Match drive. There are countless times that a person on the national registry has declined after being matched with a patient.

"It's an easy process but it's a huge deal," he said. "Somebody's life is in your hands."

Last week's Be The Match drive was conducted to help find a donor for 13-year-old John Gonzalez, who has a rare form of leukemia known as myelomonocytic leukemia.

Hillhouse encourages the community to consider registering to help save a life.

Up in smoke

Tobacco-free policy in effect



ASTRID GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

The University of Texas Pan American's policy prohibited smoking within 25 feet of a building entrance. UT Rio Grande Valley is now a smoke-free campus.

Astrid Gonzalez
THE RIDER

In Spring 2016, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley will enforce a tobacco-free policy on its campuses that will apply to all staff, students, associates, contractors and visitors.

On May 10, 2010, the University of Texas at Brownsville, which is a legacy institution of UTRGV, and its then partner Texas Southmost College amended its policy to prohibit tobacco use campuswide.

The policy prohibited the use of tobacco products which include cigarettes, cigars, pipes and smokeless tobacco. However, members of the campus community at UT

Pan American were allowed to smoke at least 25 feet away from a building's entrance, stairway to buildings and outdoor passageways to entrances and stairways.

That will no longer be the case. UTRGV prohibits the use of all smoking devices and tobacco products on university property, according to the school's Handbook of Operating Procedures.

Exceptions include sponsored research involving smoking devices or tobacco products with prior approval of the associate vice president for research and on the grounds of off-campus graduate housing facilities.

Richard Costello, director of Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management, said the

policies are now consistent for both campuses.

Although the policy became effective on Sept. 1, students in Edinburg are still under the impression that they can smoke in a smoking designated area.

"At this time, it hasn't been formally announced," Costello said. "Plus, there's some ambiguity on how it's going to be enforced but, basically, it's going to prohibit the use of tobacco on both campuses."

David Marquez, assistant director of Student Rights and Responsibilities at the Brownsville campus, said he agrees with the policy.

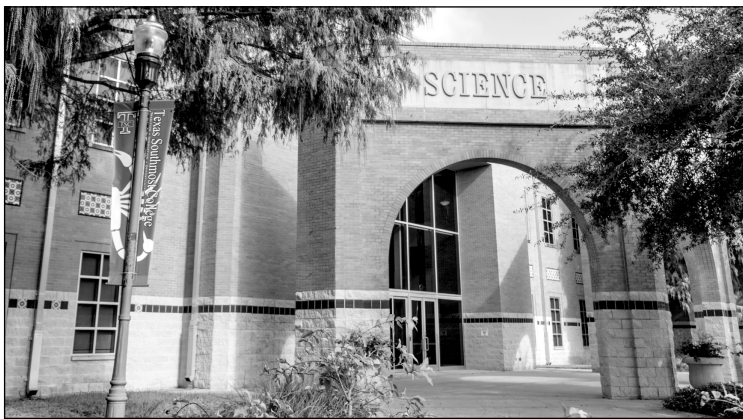
"That's not to say that I'm against smoking or anything like that," Marquez said. "I'm just saying, as an area that is accessible to the public, that we need to make sure that, especially in a higher education community, a university has an obligation to educate first and foremost, and we need to continue to follow the advice coming in from the subject area experts, the people who know the negative effects not only to people's health firsthand but secondhand."

Rebecca Gadson, interim associate vice president for Student Life and Dean of Students, said the University of Texas System is developing policies for a healthy campus environment.

"The [UT System] has put together stakeholders from the different member institutions to talk about how to assist in creating a healthy campus community environment to

See SMOKE, Page 10

Brownsville students say not enough classes



ANDREA TORRES/THE RIDER

The University of Texas System leases 43, 749 square feet in the Science and Engineering Technology Building from Texas Southmost College for UTRGV at \$524,988 per year.

Andrea Torres
THE RIDER

When law and justice studies junior Ebony Saucedo saw the Spring 2016 course list, she realized all the courses for her major were either online or on the Edinburg campus, just as they were this semester.

"They should be more organized," she said about the university. "They knew the schools were coming together, they should've organized this before. It's not fair."

Students have expressed their concerns through social media about the low number of classes offered on the Brownsville campus and about the registration system crashing.

Student Success Vice President Kristin Croyle said each department chair is in charge of arranging the courses.

"Primarily, they're designed by the department chairs, with their faculty, and submitted to the Registrar's office for assignment to a classroom and then to be displayed [on the online course list]," Croyle said last Wednesday.

When scheduling courses, the plan may be constantly changing to accommodate the demand for them, and one of the things that may prevent a course from not being shown on the ASSIST site would be if there is no classroom assigned yet, she said.

"If a classroom hasn't been assigned yet, we don't show them because what if we have to change the time to accommodate to a classroom," Croyle said. "We don't want students thinking there's going

See SPACE, Page 10

Let’s cut to the real issues

Oscar Castillo
THE RIDER



My day at the University of Texas Pan American at Brownsville begins with a 15-minute walk from a Texas Southmost College parking lot to campus because there is no Zone 2 parking available.

It’s likely that my car will get broken into. I mean, it already happened to six individuals last month alone. But what can you do if UT Rio Grande Valley Police does not patrol that area, even though Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Martin Baylor said we could park there if we had a parking permit.

My journey then continues to the Academic Advising Center, where, as a walk-in, I wait to up to an hour to speak to an adviser. Or, I could get an appointment online; after all, it is only a three-week wait. It’s not like the classes I need to take are going to go anywhere.

Actually, the classes I need did go somewhere, the Edinburg campus. If I want to graduate with my UT Brownsville degree plan, I need to take courses in Edinburg because they are not being offered in Brownsville, yet. So, all I can do is sit and wait to see if they open the classes on the Brownsville campus. If not, well, I will need to travel an hour and a half, not counting traffic delays, just to take a course.

That is, of course, if I even knew what courses I am still pending. Oh, did I not mention Brownsville students can’t see their actual graduation credits in Degreeworks. Leticia Jaramillo, associate director for Academic Advising, said in an interview with *UTRGV-TV* in September that the issue would be resolved by October and until then students could use UTB Online. Well, it’s November and Brownsville students still have their Composition I course labeled as an elective instead of Core Curriculum.

This isn’t a soapbox moment, where I say all the things that grind my gears. No, I am not the only one this is happening to. There are thousands of students who just like me are just trying to find their way to graduation. We just want answers and we are not getting them.

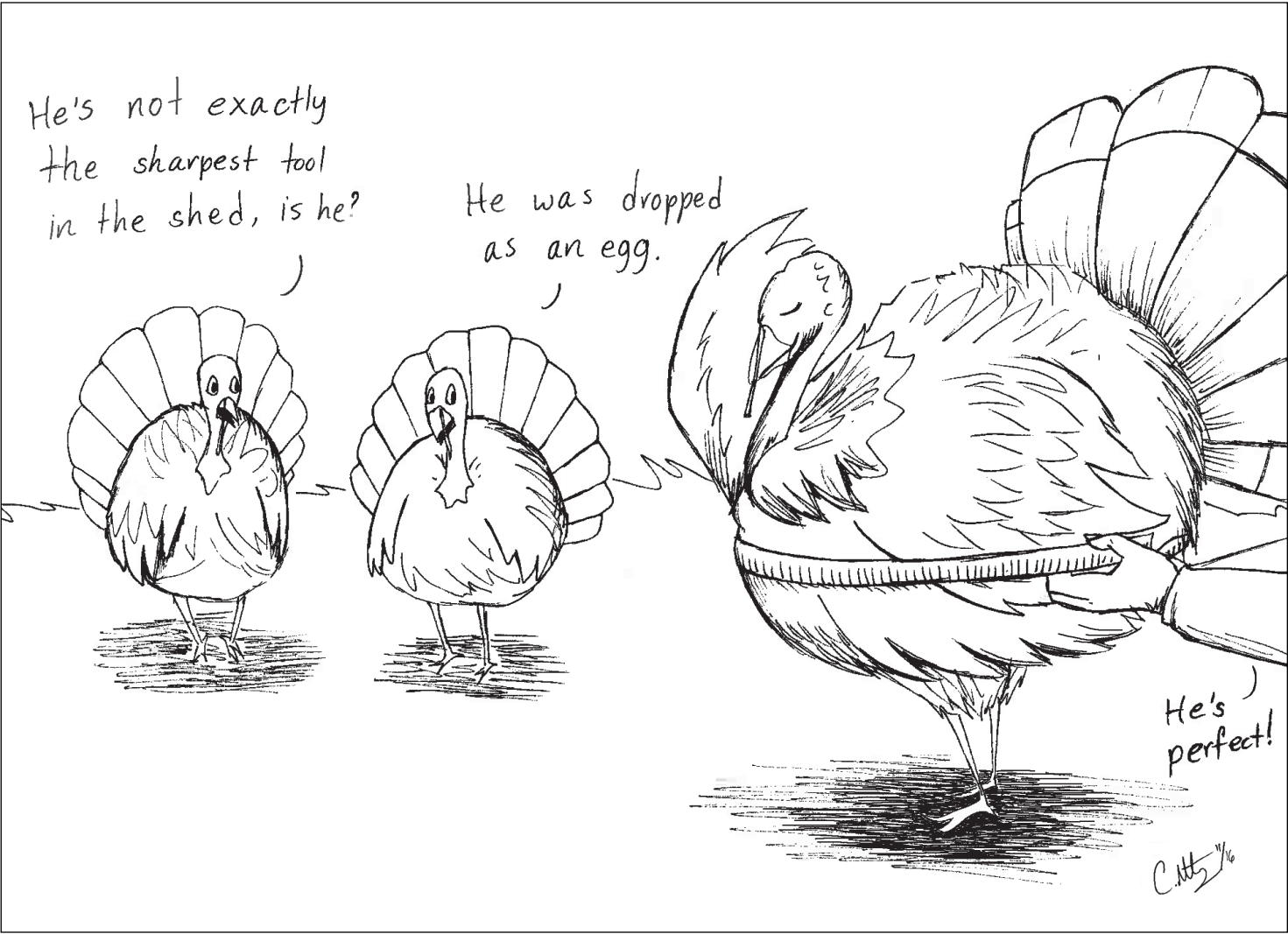
This is not a, “I miss the old UTB” or “Bring Back Ozzie/Bucky,” column. This is a let’s fix the mistakes we have right now.

Let’s put all these ridiculous town hall meetings of “how the mascot should look” on hold, and focus on why UTRGV students are forced to hunt for parking and the rest have to walk well over 15 minutes in 80-degree-plus weather, just to get near campus. And this whole, well-just-get-to-campus-early excuse administrators have given isn’t cutting it anymore.

We need to stop all this unnecessary and exorbitant spending and manpower on events like HESTEC and Midnight Madness and focus on hiring more faculty and staff to better structure and staff departments.

At this point, the university seems to be focused on giving itself a good image instead of focusing on what is best for the students.

This column is not meant to offend any students, faculty or staff from either campus. It is intended to raise awareness on the real issues that are affecting students. We cannot expect change to happen if we don’t speak out and that is what this is really about.



Campus Q & A

What are you thankful for?

--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza and Lesley Robles



Rudy Gallardo
Nursing freshman

“I’m thankful for the beautiful campus we have. I’m thankful for the financial aid that I’m getting this semester and I’m thankful for my parents.”



Stephanye Espinoza
Nursing junior

“I am thankful for my health, my family, my daughter and for being alive. I’m just thankful for everything that I have in my life right now.”



Eloy Morales
Biology pre-dental freshman

“I’m thankful for my parents because they could afford to put me in college, and for all these things that they do for me, and all the opportunities that they give me.”



Frida Flores
Psychology freshman

“I’m thankful for having every resource possible to get an education. Recently, I’ve been doing community service for students in need and I’ve learned a lot about what others don’t have.”

Colors in the sky

Hot air balloons to fly in RGV

Ena Capucion

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

As the population of the Rio Grande Valley increases, new entertainment events are being created, such as the first ever South Texas Balloon Festival, which begins at 4 p.m. Friday in Mercedes.

Claudia Corral, co-founder of the South Texas Balloon Festival, said it was time to expose the Valley to something the area is not normally accustomed to.

"We're the media, marketing and entertainment section, so once we were presented with the opportunity to bring something new to the Valley, we took it," Corral said.

The festival will feature a number of different activities, performances and eateries, such as the balloon education expo from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday for scheduled private schools and some homeschooled children.

About 20 different local food vendors, including food trucks, will be present at the event. Music performances by local artists ranging from DJs to school performances with selections from pop and country music will decorate the festival.

A fajita cookoff takes place Saturday with a \$2,000 grand prize as well as \$1,000 and \$500 prizes for second and third place, respectively. For those who make the best beans, the first-place winner will receive \$500; second place, \$300; and third place, \$200.

University of Texas Pan American graduate Clare Nerio saw on Facebook that some of her friends would be attending the event and is looking forward to taking her family out for some fun.

"I wanted something different in the [Valley]-something family oriented and I'm glad there are more events like these happening," the Donna native said. "I want to go and have a good time with my family--trying new foods and listening to live music."

Not only does the festival offer family fun, but it also gives a new type of scenery for the people of the Valley to see. UTRGV student Daniela Galindo

saw pictures of a balloon festival similar to the upcoming event that her aunt attended in New Braunfels and San Antonio.

"The scenery was beautiful," the nursing major said.

"It looked amazing."

[The festival] is also a great way to bring the community together."

The festival, located at the RGV Livestock Showgrounds in Mercedes, 1000 N. Texas Ave., will run until midnight Friday, and from 5 p.m. to midnight Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets (\$10 for adults and \$5 for children, high school or college students with a valid ID, military members or veterans and seniors) are available on the festival website at

www.southtexasballoonfestival.com. Admission is free for children ages 2 and younger. Parking is \$5 per car and express parking is \$10. On site, there will be balloon-tethered rides--\$20 for adults and \$10 for children.

A tethered ride is a hot air balloon that will float to the air and is securely

anchored to the ground using a series of strong ropes and carabiners.

The festival will also offer a commercial balloon flight, at \$300 per person, that will take off from a designated location and land at an undetermined location.

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THANKSGIVING HOURS

The following venues will be closing early Wednesday 11/25 for
Thanksgiving break and will be closed 11/26-11/29
Regular operating hours resume Monday November 30th



7:30am-12:00pm



7:30am-2:00pm



10:30am-2:00pm



10:30am-2:00pm



7:30am-3:00pm

The following venues will be CLOSED Wednesday 11/25-11/29
and will resume regular operating hours Monday 11/30



Located In The
Student Union



Located In The
Student Union



Located In The
Student Union



Located In The
Science Building



Located In The
Engineering
Building

INTERNSHIP NOV. 16-19 WEEK

Brownsville

Edinburg

MON 16

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Open House ★
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Visit our office and get information
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Student Services Bldg. 2.101
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TUES 17

Internships 101
Workshop / Lunch Provided

Cortez Hall Rm. 118
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Internships 101
Workshop / Lunch Provided

Student Union (SAGE)
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

WED 18

Information Tables
Attorney General of Texas,
Select Staff, Target,
City of Brownsville, Fastenal,
Homeland Security
Investigations and more!

Main Courtyard (SU)
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Information Tables
Telemundo,
Wonderful Citrus, Target,
Political Science Dept.,
Palm Valley Animal Center
and more!

Student Union Lobby
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

THUR 19

Internship Experience
Student Panel

Cortez Hall Rm. 118
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Internship Experience
Student Panel

Cenizo (next to Ballroom)
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

The Rider is the official student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The newspaper is widely distributed on campus and off campus in Brownsville and Edinburg, Texas. Views presented are those of the writers and do not reflect those of the paper or university.

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Monday, November 16, 2015

Tuition and Fees Forum

The **UTRGV Academic Cost Committee** will host a forum from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday in the Student Union Theatre in Edinburg and from 3 to 4:15 p.m. in the Student Union’s Gran Salón in Brownsville. The forums will give UTRGV students, faculty and staff an opportunity to provide feedback for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 tuition and fee rates. The campus community can email its input to the committee at ACC@utrgv.edu. For special accommodations, call the **Student Accessibility Services** office at 665-7005 in Edinburg and 882-7372 in Brownsville.

UT Law School presentations

Dean **Ward Farnsworth** will meet Tuesday with students interested in applying to the **University of Texas**

at **Austin School of Law** at 1 p.m. in the Main Building’s Salón Cassia in Brownsville and at 3:30 p.m. in the Engineering Building Auditorium, room 1.300, in Edinburg. For more information, email **Jerry Polinard**, faculty adviser for the **Pre-Law Society**, at jerry.polinard@utrgv.edu.

Meet and Greet

Join UTRGV **Provost Havidán Rodriguez** and the **Academic Affairs Leadership** for conversation from 9 to 10 a.m. Thursday at Patio Jacaranda in Life and Health Sciences Building 1.500 on the Brownsville campus.

Holiday Celebration

Holiday activities will take place from 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesday in Main Courtyard on the Brownsville campus and 4 to 9 p.m. Thursday at the Commons/Chapel Lawn

on the Edinburg campus. Students will decorate wreaths that will be donated to a local nursing home. Food will be served. For more information, call **Student Involvement** in Brownsville at 882-5111 or the **Campus Programming Board** in Edinburg at 665-7991.

The Hobbit’ presentation

The **Theatre for Young Audiences of UTRGV** will present “**The Hobbit**,” a play adaptation by **Patricia Gray** based on the classic by **J.R.R. Tolkien**. The show opens at 7 p.m. Dec. 3 at the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre in the ARHU building on the Edinburg campus. Additional shows are at 7 p.m. Dec. 4, 2 and 7 p.m. Dec. 5 and 2 p.m. Dec. 6. Admission is \$3 per person. For more information, call 665-3581.

--Compiled by Monica Gudiño



POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Nov. 4 and 8.



November 4

9:42 a.m.: A Unity Hall staff member reported that a male visits the Unity Hall dormitories and refuses to sign in at the front desk. University Police contacted the individual and issued him a criminal trespass warning from all UTRGV property.

10:39 a.m.: A student reported that she struck an unattended white Chevrolet Silverado with her gold Chevrolet Cruze in Lot I on the Edinburg campus. Both vehicles sustained minor damage.

11:58 a.m.: A student reported she was sexually assaulted by a male UTRGV student in a location off campus on Nov. 1. The case is under investigation by the Edinburg Police Department.

1:10 p.m.: A Financial Services staff member reported two fraudulent checks were submitted to be cashed using the bank account of UT Pan American with Bank of America. The checks were denied payment with no monetary loss to the university.

November 5

11:15 a.m.: A staff member reported she accidentally damaged a GMC truck in Lot D. She was exiting her vehicle as the

front driver door swung open with the wind, striking the truck on the right back quarter panel.

12:30 p.m.: A student reported her Toyota pickup had been struck by an unknown vehicle while it was parked in Lot C on the Edinburg campus. The truck sustained minor damage on the right back quarter panel.

2:49 p.m.: A faculty member reported she saw threatening messages on a Twitter account toward a professor on the Edinburg campus by a male student. The male suspect was identified and agreed to provide a statement. The case is under investigation.

7:09 p.m.: The U.S. Border Patrol requested assistance of University Police after three individuals were seen crossing the border fence behind the old National Guard building on the Brownsville campus. With the aid of a Border Patrol K-9 unit, UTRGV Police arrested two juveniles hiding in the surrounding area. The individuals were carrying two bundles containing marijuana with an estimated value of \$64,592. The third suspect fled back into Mexico.

November 6

3:12 a.m.: University Police cited three UTRGV students, minors, who were found with alcohol in a Casa Bella apartment. The male was issued a written criminal trespass warning for not being a resident of the student housing complex.

11:40 a.m.: A University Police officer reported that she injured her knee Oct. 30 while helping a stranded motorist on FJRM Avenue on the Brownsville campus. The officer was unable to see where the curb and the street met as she waded through the knee-deep water which caused her to fall on her left knee.

November 8

5:20 p.m.: A faculty member tripped and fell during a soccer game and dislocated his shoulder while on the UREC baseball field in Edinburg. He was transported to Edinburg Regional Medical Center.

8:42 p.m.: A student riding a moped was stopped on the 900 block of North Sugar Road for not having license plates. He was not wearing a helmet and had no license, insurance or vehicle registration paperwork. The moped was impounded.

--Compiled by Andrea Torres

Honoring veterans across the Valley



CLARISSA MARTINEZ/THE RIDER

Staff and volunteers of the the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park fire the third cannon salute in memory of those who died in battle.



ANDREA TORRES/THE RIDER

The American Legion Post 101 Honor Guard prepares for the 21-gun salute during the ceremony in front of the Chapel Lawn in Edinburg.

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utrgvrider.com

Intense competitors

Intramural leagues are serious business

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

Bodies fly around the court. Tempers are on short fuses, so much so that it's common to see balls slammed on the hardwood court with a subsequent technical foul. Hard fouls and playing full blast until the last whistle is part of the action game after game. The language may turn vulgar at times and the referees hear about it when they make a bad call on a play.

While UTRGV students see this intensity all year in the Fieldhouse, Soccer and Track & Field Complex and across the country, this isn't intercollegiate athletics, it's intramural league action.

Game night in the Wellness and Recreational Sports Complex is hectic, with matches starting at 5 and taking place consecutively until 10 o'clock. Art Cabrera, reaction specialist, who has an office right behind the main basketball court, is one of two people in charge of keeping all leagues running smoothly.

He pulled up a master spreadsheet that calculated 1,179 unique intramural competitors. The list did not include the many people who will jump from sport to sport as seasons close and new ones open up.

While the numbers at first glance all seemed positive, Cabrera said that increasing female participation is a big goal. Also, despite the really nice facility, he said even more courts and fields would be great for intramural participants and those who go to the Wellness



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Oscar Gonzalez, a member of the Broncs Soldiers intramural basketball team, reaches in to steal the ball from Adrian Rodriguez during a game against the BBA intramural basketball team in the Wellness and Recreational Sports Complex in Edinburg. BBA won the game 69-33.

Center without competing.

"We get a decent number of players but I imagine if we had more fields we could give the [players] more games per night, per game, per week and ultimately per league," Cabrera said. "A lot of times when we take over the gym, we're hurting our reaction side. So, our facilities are limited when

we pretty much take over, using all three gyms for matches."

He described the intensity of the games that take place nightly.

"It can get very competitive. Basketball and soccer, these are minimal contact sports. There is a little pushing and shoving, you gotta watch out, of course," said Cabrera, who

is also in charge of all student officials. "Plus, everybody wants to win, especially when you get a fanbase who are 'oohing' and 'ahhing' and egging these players on if they make a nice shot or a dunk, a block."

Leagues for numerous sports are available online for participants who want to sign up. Sports range from conventional, like basketball and volleyball, to more off-the-wall competition such as handball, kickball and "walleyball" which is a mixture of wallball and volleyball.

Step outside to the fields adjacent to the facility and there's action there as well. Cleats and fresh-cut grass coincide with intramural soccer.

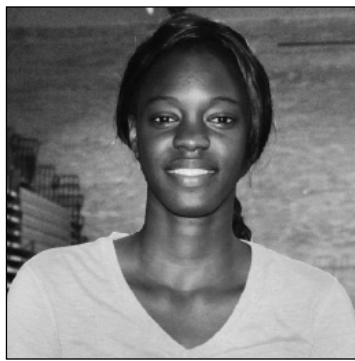
Senior biology major Paulette Guzman makes time aside from being a full-time student and teaching assistant to play forward in intramural soccer for *Los Chicharitos*.

"It is the best thing for me," said Guzman, who is the captain of her team. "It is an extra thing that makes you forget about everything, makes you forget about classes, about your problems. Besides, it is something good for your physical body and, definitely, I think it's the best way to exercise and compete."

After competing as a free agent and getting placed on a team her first semester, she now opens the team up for both volleyball and soccer, allowing players to join her team.

Games take place most weeknights in the center. Seasons start for various sports every few weeks. Intramural portals for both campuses are available on the university recreation page at UTRGV.edu.

Athlete of the Week



JACQUELINE ARIAS/THE RIDER

Name: Fatoumata Dacosta

Classification: Junior

Major: Accounting

Sports: Volleyball

Hometown: Dakar, Senegal

Who is your favorite athlete? "Kobe Bryant."

Bryant is an American professional basketball player who plays for the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA.

Who is your role model?

"My parents."

What is the best advice you've been given and by whom?

"My mom has always told me to not give up and always try my best."

Where's your favorite hangout spot on campus?

Why? "I'm just playing volleyball and don't do anything else. Maybe basketball."

When did you begin playing basketball and why did you start?

"I started playing since I was 6 years old. My sisters would play volleyball and I started playing with them."

Did you compete in high school and did you get any awards?

"We don't have high school sports like here [in the U.S.], but I played in a club in my country and I played in the national team, too."

What are your academic goals? "I hope to get a 4.0 GPA."

What is your favorite movie? "Fast Girls." The film "Fast Girls" is a 2012 sports drama about women's track.

Is there a song that gets your head in the game? "'Fight Song' by Rachel Platten."

How do you feel about being part of the first UTRGV Women's Volleyball Team?

"I think it's great to have this team and this coach, it's just awesome. I love this team and the coaches. The way that they just coach us and the way that they help us with everything."

--Compiled by Jacqueline Arias

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

Athletic achievements and contributions, over the span of four decades, will be recognized when the 2016 Hall of Fame Class is honored this coming February.

On Nov. 3 the full list of individuals and single team was announced via the UTRGV Athletic Hall of Fame Committee. The group, which decides the inductees, is made up of former athletes, many already in the Hall of Fame, as well as some long-standing staff members.

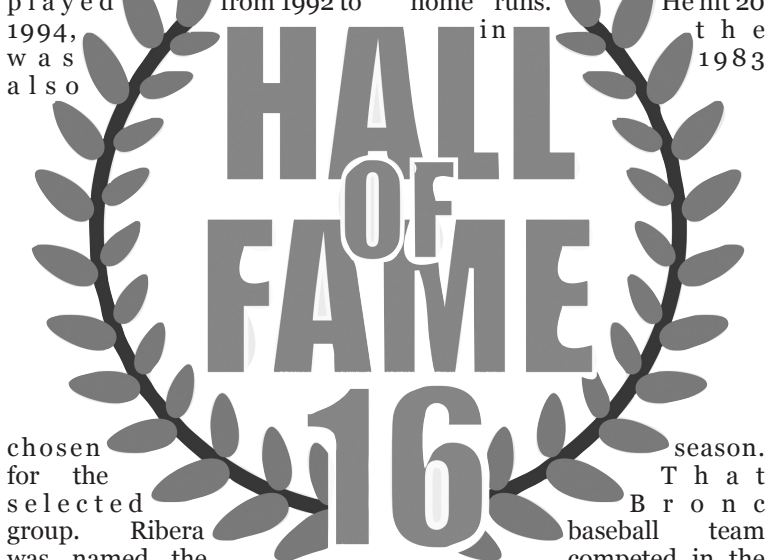
Heading into the Hall this year are a wide range of sports. One of the highlights of the list is Christie (Schindler) Montgomery, the first volleyball player to be inducted. Montgomery competed from 1972 to 1974 and was a dual-sport athlete who also played on the women's basketball team. The Edinburg High alum stood tall at 6 feet 5 inches and competed for Pan American University, prior to affiliation with the University of Texas System.

Brian Merriweather, a men's basketball star from 1997 to 2001, will be added as well. Merriweather holds the program record for most three-pointers made, with 332 while on the team. He also sits third,

all-time, on the scoring list with 1,738 points.

Men's soccer standout Mario Ribera, who played from 1992 to 1994, was also

the UTPA baseball team from 1981 to 1983. The slugger ranks second in program history in single season home runs. He hit 20 in the 1983



chosen for the selected group. Ribera was named the 1992 Sun Belt Conference Freshman of the Year. The striker from Santa Cruz, Bolivia, contributed greatly on offense, setting conference and program records. His 2.42 goals per game were fourth all-time in NCAA history. Contributing to these averages, Ribera was part of an unbelievable match against Schreiner University where he tallied six goals and six assists. The final score was 16-0.

Also in the class is career home run record-holder Mitchell Moran, a member of

NCAA regional tournament and had a 64-19-1 record under Coach Al Olgetree.

Robert Barron enters the Hall of Fame as the only runner in this year's class. The distance runner competed in cross-country and track and field from 1985 to 1990. At the time of his departure from Pan American, he held the indoor and outdoor track and field program records for the 3,000-meter run. Barron also held the record for the fastest mile, finishing in 4:17.96.

Also joining the 2016 class

is the entire 1983 baseball roster. This team is historic in the program, holding the best overall record to date, winning 64 games and losing 19. The team set records in home runs, runs, walks, double plays, innings pitched and more.

This is also the second induction for a few of the 1983 baseball team members. Don Guillot, speedster and former USA baseball team member, was added to the HOF in 2013. Jim Hickey, who pitched to All-American honors in the 1983 season and has been a longtime pitching coach in the majors, was inducted in 2010.

Mitchell Moran is also being inducted as an individual this year with the 1983 team.

Two baseball coaches from the staff are double dipping with inductions: Reggie Treadaway, entering in 2008, and of course, Al Olgetree, the great longtime coach with Pan American. Olgetree was part of the first HOF class, back in 2007.

The final inductee is UTRGV Associate Athletic Director Jim Lancaster.

"It's pretty special, I think what I try to do as I go through the process is, I set a goal and that's to be a part of something, being a part of the university and being a part of this program," said Lancaster, the longtime trainer. "It's not so

See HOF, Page 10

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DEFENSE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

indicate that the cloth has self-cleaned and protects the body from bacteria within 30 minutes after being exposed to sunlight. Bacteria or grease stains are eliminated from the cloth using sunlight and are oxidized into carbon dioxide and water.
“So, our personnel who is wearing this textile is safe, but it needs a little light,” Uddin said about the uniform. “Our defense team is working outside most of the time, and that is why they need smart clothes. So, they will be safe from any microbial and any staining and any other hazardous radiation purpose too.”

SPACE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

to be this exact class at this time when we’re not sure yet.”
On both campuses, there are still some courses that are yet to have a designated classroom due to the need of that room during peak times, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., she said.
Rajiv Nambiar, professor and interim chair of Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering, said his department still does not have some courses listed on ASSIST for students to view and register because of the classroom shortage and student demand for certain times.
“Most students want to take classes between nine and noon every day and want to avoid Fridays, so as a result it is

Uddin said the clothing will absorb the radiation, protect the body and, in turn, let the person wearing the suit know that there may be high levels of radiation. Personnel wearing the uniform will be able to harness radiation absorbed in the suit and transform it into energy using the organic carbon-based 3-D flexible cells.
Uddin said the university will patent its research, so companies may be able to use it for their products, creating revenue for the institution.
Some practical applications include using the suit as a heater in cold temperatures, or charging a cell phone as in a sunny day.
Taking its research to the next level, Uddin and Moore’s team plans to expand

on the flexible cells to create an artificial nervous system that would administer the status of a structure in real time.
“Instead of having wires, the whole thing just becomes a conductive surface. The whole body becomes a sensor, a feedback system,” said Glenn Grissom, a graduate physics student. “If we can develop the software, then we can feed it into the system and we can sense everywhere exactly what’s happening out in that system. How much it’s flexing, how hot it is, how much expansion is going. Is there anything impacting the surface? What kind of radiation is falling on the surface? Are we being detected by a radar? Is somebody looking at us? We can tell.”
The team will use the grant to hire

two graduate and three undergraduate students for a year. The grant can be renewed an additional two years, opening the door for more people to come on board.
“I believe that students who will be working with us, their future will be bright because, you know, this is the smart age, this is the nanotechnology age,” Uddin said. “We need smart [students] who would be working in smart research work, they would definitely have a bright future, for their future career, that’s what we believe.”
For more information, call Uddin at 882-7772 or Moore at 882-5737.

HOFF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

much the Hall-of-Fame type of thing as it just that you meant something and that’s probably what means so much to me.”
Lancaster has been head trainer for 36 years. Since age 22, he’s served at the position and has seen many of the athletes that are heading into the Hall of Fame when they might have been injured. Lancaster,who has been a backbone in the program for years, spoke behind the

philosophy of sticking around.
“You find a good place, you stick with it and make the most of it and you become part of it. I thought that’s just what you did,” the University of Texas graduate said. “If the program means something to you, you’ll suffer through the bad and enjoy the good. I’ve always said, ‘Win, lose or draw, that’s still my team.’”
The ceremony is scheduled Feb. 20 in the UTRGV Ballroom. For more information, call UTRGV Athletics at 665-2221.

SMOKE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

plan a tobacco summit to help use active bystander intervention, help promote the adherence to policies and how to provide some prevention education and information,” Gadson said. “I think as a system there is a commitment, perhaps, to developing comprehensive policies that include not just being smoke-free but tobacco-free, to include the elimination of the electronic nicotine devices as well.”

lease, it was related to Fiscal Year 2014,” Lewis said. “There have been some slight changes but for the most part, they are leasing similar space. They have asked for some additional space and one of the things that has discontinued in our lease, in the arrangement, is we no longer lease any space from ... the UT System.”
Croyle recommends that students who cannot find crucial courses contact their department chair.
“There will be more classes offered in Edinburg for the foreseeable future than there will be in Brownsville because there are more students in Edinburg,” she said. “That doesn’t mean that classes in Brownsville don’t meet the need.”

HOFF

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Criminal justice freshman Juan Avila is in favor of the tobacco-free policy.
“I actually agree with not smoking cigarettes on campus because smoking cigarettes is actually bad for you,” Avila said. “I’ve witnessed a lot of cigarette butts all over the floor. I mean, it’s much better to have an electronic cigarette or a vape pen. ... You’re not making any mess, it doesn’t smell bad and you’re not bothering anyone.”

For special accommodations,please contact Student Involvement at (956) 882-5111 or (956)-665-2660.

Monday Nov 16	Can & Coat Drive Weeklong Various Locations Campus Wide	Canstruction 5:00 pm Ballroom Edinburg	Drive-In Movie 7:30 pm Casa Bella Lawn Brownsville	Women’s Game 7:00 pm Fieldhouse Edinburg
Tuesday Nov 17	Canstruction 8:00 am - 3:00 pm Student Union Lawn Brownsville	Wellness Presentation 12:30 - 1:30 pm STUN Mesquite Edinburg	Holiday Celebration 5:00 - 7:00 pm Chapel Lawn Brownsville	Jurassic World 7:00 pm STUN Theater Edinburg
Wednesday Nov 18	Comfort Blankets 11:30 - 1:30 pm Student Union Lawn Brownsville	Women’s Game 7:00 pm Fieldhouse Edinburg		
Thursday Nov 19	Walk to End Hunger 11:30 am MAIN Courtyard Brownsville	Gardening 101 12:30 - 1:30 pm STUN Mesquite Edinburg	Adopt-A-Wreath 3:00 pm Student Union Edinburg	Holiday Celebration 6:00 - 9:00 pm Chapel Lawn Edinburg
	Friday Nov 20	Men’s Game 7:00 pm Fieldhouse Edinburg		
	Saturday Nov 21	Sort-A-Thon 8:00 - 1:00pm University Center Edinburg		

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