

# THE RIDER

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# Access Denied

## 2013 pact limits use of TSC Rec Center to Brownsville UTRGV students



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

UTRGV nursing sophomore Lizbeth Trejo hands her student ID to TSC Recreation Center student employee Adalberto Lara before being allowed into the facility Nov. 15 on the Brownsville campus. Also shown is health occupation junior Javier Garcia.

**Andrea Torres**  
THE RIDER

During the first semester of UTRGV, Gael Garza tried to enter the Texas Southmost College Recreation Center in Brownsville, but was told he could not because he only took classes in Edinburg.

"At that point, I was, you can say, furious but at the same time I felt a little bit of segregation," said Garza, a criminal justice graduate student who lives in Brownsville and has been denied access two times since then. "I felt like I was being classified as an [Edinburg] student instead of an actual [UTRGV] student, where the both campuses are supposed to be one. Instead, they still are acting as two different entities."

Earlier this semester, Garza spoke to Alondra Galvan, Student Government Association vice president for the Brownsville campus, about being rejected from the TSC Recreation Center.

As a member of the UREC committee on campus, Galvan presented Garza's issue to the committee.

The former UREC director told Galvan that it is true, students who take all classes in Edinburg cannot use the facility

community. Students of both schools pay a \$75 recreation fee each semester.

A UTRGV student's recreation fee goes to the university's facility in Edinburg or the TSC Rec Center in Brownsville, depending on where he or she takes courses.

Students who take all of their classes in Edinburg pay the maintenance and operation costs of the University Recreation Building in Edinburg and can only use that facility because of a non-binding letter of intent regarding exchange of land and

improvements and lease of improvements between the University of Texas System and TSC.

**Editorial cartoon,**  
**Page 4**

The recreation fee for students who take all or at least one class in Brownsville goes to the TSC facility. These students

See REC, Page 10

## DREAMers' nightmare: Where do we go now?

**Oscar Castillo**  
and **Rebeca Ortiz**  
THE RIDER

Since Donald Trump was elected president earlier this month, Maria Hernandez and her sister, Maritza, have been left with a feeling of uncertainty.

The sisters are DREAMers, individuals who meet the general requirements of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act. In 2001, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 1403, also known as the Texas DREAM Act, which extends in-state tuition and grants eligibility to non-citizen residents of the state, according to forabettertexas.org.

UTRGV freshman Maritza Hernandez, who has lived in the U.S. since she was 2 years old, said she does not know what the president-elect will do when it comes to the DREAM Act because he "keeps changing his mind."

"In one occasion, he was all like, 'I'm going to take it away,'" the 21-year-old said. "And, right now, he's saying only the criminals, you know, people who have done something against the law. So, it's just



OSCAR CASTILLO/THE RIDER

Protesters march along the border fence next to the Rio Grande Nov. 12 in downtown Brownsville.

uncertain, I don't know what to do, whether to stay or to leave or what, you know?"

Trump's campaign website states he will "immediately terminate President [Barack] Obama's two illegal executive amnesties."

This refers to Obama's 2014 executive actions, in which he expanded the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, a policy that provides young people who were brought to the United States as children with temporary protection from deportation if they can demonstrate that they meet several criteria, according to whitehouse.gov. In addition, parents of U.S. citizens and green-card holders may sign up for the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA) program.

Rosy Evelin Lima, coordinator of Red DACA,

See DREAMERS, Page 10



# THE RIDER

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

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Today

#### Free ice cream

The **Student Union** will serve ice cream from noon to 1 p.m. on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville while supplies last. For more information, call 665-7989.

#### Choir concert

The **UTRGV Choir** will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at patron.utrgv.edu or at the door. For more information, call 665-3881 or email patron@utrgv.edu.

#### Symphony concert

The **UTRGV Symphony Orchestra** will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. The orchestra is composed of student musicians and will be conducted by UTRGV music Professor **Peter Dabrowski**. The concert will also feature **UTRGV School of Music** faculty **Tido Janssen**, cello; **Carl Maria Von Weber** and **Jonathan Guist**, clarinet. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at patron.utrgv.edu or at the door. For more information, call 665-3881 or email patron@utrgv.edu.

### Tuesday

#### Environmental symposium

The **UTRGV Environmental Studies Program** will conduct an **Environmental Studies Symposium** from 3 to 7 p.m. at the University Ballroom in Edinburg. The program will feature UTRGV professors, students and community members speaking about art, literature, activism, climate change and local nature attractions. Admission is free. For more information, email Environmental Studies Program Coordinator **Amy Hay** at amy.hay@utrgv.edu.

#### Percussion concert

The **UTRGV Percussion Chamber Ensemble** will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg. Admission is free. For more information, call 665-3881 or email patron@utrgv.edu.

### Wednesday

#### World AIDS Day

**Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity Inc.** will host a **World AIDS Day Candlelight Vigil and Balloon Release** from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the Chapel Lawn in Edinburg. The fraternity will work with **UTRGV Heath Services** to host the vigil in remembrance of those who

have died due to HIV/AIDS. Balloons and candles will be provided. For more information, email lambda.beta86@gmail.com.

### Thursday

#### Jazz concert

The **UTRGV Jazz Orchestra** will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at patron.utrgv.edu or at the door. For more information, call 665-3881 or email patron@utrgv.edu.

### Friday

#### Holiday concert

The **Mariachi Aztlán** and **Ballet Folklórico** will perform at 7:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday at the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg. The concert will highlight traditional folk music and dance and will include Christmas favorites. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at patron.utrgv.edu or at the door. For more information, call 665-3881 or email patron@utrgv.edu.

### Saturday

#### Local Hack Day

The **Association for Computing Machinery** will host **Local Hack Day** from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. in Room 1.101 of the Student Academic Center in Edinburg. Students from around the world will host their own Local Hack Day at their school simultaneously, resulting in the single largest day of student hacking. There will be chat rooms and activities. Admission is free and the association invites anyone interested to attend the kickoff of the 2017 MLH Hackathon Season. For more information, email alejandro.huerta02@utrgv.edu.

#### Home for the Holidays Concert

The **Home for the Holidays Concert** will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students with proper ID. Tickets can be purchased at patron.utrgv.edu or at the door. For more information, call 665-3881 or email patron@utrgv.edu.

### Sunday

#### Guitar concert

The **UTRGV Guitar Ensemble** will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at patron.utrgv.edu or at the door. For more information, call 665-3881 or

email patron@utrgv.edu.

#### Food Sales

#### Hamburgers/hot dogs

**Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc.** will sell hot dogs and burgers combos that will include chips and a soda from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday in the Library BBQ area on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email yolanda.escobedo01@utrgv.edu.

The **Student Association for Medical Spanish** will sell hot dogs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Library BBQ area in Edinburg. Combos will be sold and include chips and a drink. For more information, email kenya.alvarez01@utrgv.edu.

The **Economics Society** will sell hot dogs from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday in the front lawn of the Mathematics and General Classroom building in Edinburg. For more information, email patricia.salinastrevino01@utrgv.edu.

**Kappa Kappa Psi Mu Chi Chapter** will sell hamburger plates from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at parking lot E19 on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email diego.torres01@utrgv.edu.

#### Pizza

The **Student Association for Medical Spanish** will sell pizza slices and combos with chips and drink from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. today in the Mathematics and General Classroom on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 438-0630.

The **American Marketing Association at UTRGV-Brownsville** will sell pizza and soda combos from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. today and Wednesday at the Student Union. For more information, email katia.perezflores01@utrgv.edu.

The **Japanese Animation Club** will sell pizza, sodas, chips and chili dogs from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Quad BBQ area on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 371-3306.

The **REHAB Club** will sell pizza from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday in the Mathematics and General Classrooms front lawn on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-2660.

The **Health Occupations Students of America** will sell pizza from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday in the Library CTY B area on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email hosa.utrgv@gmail.com.

--Compiled by Brenda Garza

## POLICE REPORTS

*The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Nov. 7 and Nov. 16.*



#### Nov. 7

**4:24 p.m.:** A student reported she was waiting for a vehicle to vacate a parking space when a silver Mercedes SUV tried to drive around her car in the parking aisle. The

student said she felt her vehicle move and after parking, she saw damage to the rear driver's side bumper. The vehicle continued to circle the area and she was able to take a picture of it. A video review shows the described incident. The case is under investigation.

#### Nov. 8

**11:41 a.m.:** A student reported that her ex-boyfriend said he was going to come onto the UTRGV campus and distribute provocative photos of her. The woman said she has filed several reports filed with two other agencies against the man for assault in the past. The student was advised to file a report in regard to this case with the police department in Edcouch, where she resides. Detectives are already in contact with the Edcouch Police Department.

#### Nov. 9

**4:12 p.m.:** A student reported that her vehicle was damaged while parked in Lot B1 on the Brownsville campus.

#### Nov. 10

**12:59 p.m.:** A male staff member was arrested on a misdemeanor charge

of assault-dating violence after a disturbance in Lot E37 on the Edinburg campus. A woman told the officer that she was assaulted by her boyfriend. The staff member was transported to the Edinburg Municipal Jail. The woman refused medical attention.

#### Nov. 11

**2:59 p.m.:** A student reported that while she was conducting a roadway survey for class near Rio Hondo, she struck a mailbox with the university vehicle's front passenger side view mirror. She said she was not injured and declined emergency medical services.

#### Nov. 12

**6:53 p.m.:** A student reported she left her bike unsecured in front of Unity Hall and returned to find it stolen.

#### Nov. 13

**2:28 a.m.:** A UTRGV officer returning to the UTRGV Brownsville campus, observed a vehicle committing traffic violations and stopped it. The driver appeared to be intoxicated and performed poorly on the Standard Field Sobriety Test. He was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated and transported to Brownsville City Jail. The driver refused to provide a specimen of his breath. The officer then completed a blood warrant, which was signed by a judge. The man was then transported to Valley Baptist Medical Center in Brownsville, where a specimen of his

blood was drawn by medical staff.

#### Nov. 14

**7:40 p.m.:** An officer stopped a student whose vehicle displayed a paper license plate with no record on file. The student said a Texas Department of Public Safety officer had stopped him and confiscated a similar license plate the previous week. He bought the vehicle from someone in Harlingen who had been giving him the paper license plates. The student was told the license plates he is receiving are not legitimate. The paper license plate was confiscated and the student was provided the case number.

#### Nov. 15

**8:43 a.m.:** A student said she overheard a professor using verbally abusive language toward students in a classroom. She identified the professor through the UTRGV directory and completed a witness statement.

#### Nov. 16

**11:29 p.m.:** A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle with a defective head lamp, which yielded an operator with a suspended driver's license. An active warrant was located and confirmed for the driver's arrest from the City of Edinburg for unpaid fines. The operator was booked into the Edinburg Municipal Jail on the outstanding warrant and was issued a court appearance citation.

--Compiled by Megan Gonzalez



# UTRGV evaluating judge's preliminary injunction

Monika Garza  
THE RIDER

UTRGV is evaluating a federal judge's nationwide preliminary injunction on the final rule on overtime, university officials say.

"We are still evaluating. I have not got any official feedback yet on what we are going to be doing in regards to the changes," said Kristina Chavez, compensation manager for UTRGV Human Resources. "It is temporary. I mean, it is at this point delayed, but there is no final word in regards to what is going to happen."

On Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Amos L. Mazzant, from the Eastern District of Texas Sherman Division, issued a memorandum opinion and order granting a preliminary injunction in the State of Nevada, et al, vs. the U.S. Labor Department, et al.

According to the order, "the court determines that the state plaintiffs have satisfied all of the elements required for the issuance of a preliminary injunction:"

--a substantial likelihood of success on the merits

--a substantial threat that plaintiffs will suffer irreparable harm if the injunction is not granted

--that the threatened injury outweighs any damage that the injunction might cause the defendant



--that the injunction will not disserve the public interest

Nevada and 20 other states, including Texas, filed suit against the U.S. Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division, challenging the final rule on overtime.

The state plaintiffs argue the Federal Labor Standards Act's overtime requirements violate the Constitution by regulating the states and coercing them to adopt wage policy choices that adversely affect the states' priorities, budgets and services, according to the memorandum opinion and order.

If implemented, the overtime rule would convert 450 exempt UTRGV employees to

nonexempt.

However, the rule would not impact 25 UTRGV job titles under the academic support personnel exemption, which was scheduled to take effect Thursday throughout the United States, university officials say.

As previously reported by *The Rider*, the overtime rule stands to have a bigger impact on exempt employees who would be reclassified as nonexempt because it would change the way they have to account for their time at work.

"There is a specific [exemption] that the Labor Department actually included for teaching titles or titles that

MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

are closely related to student advising or student advisers, specifically," Chavez said. "Twenty-five [UTRGV] titles are being identified as academic support personnel."

The U.S. Labor Department states that "the administrative personnel that help run higher education institutions and interact with students outside the classroom, such as department heads, academic counselors and advisers, intervention specialists and others with similar responsibilities are subject to a special salary threshold that does not apply to white-collar employees outside of higher education."

If the rule is implemented, 107 UTRGV employees would not have an exemption status change.

These employees are not entitled to overtime compensation if they are paid at least as much as the entrance salary for teachers at their institution, according to the U.S. Labor Department website.

"We will be adjusting some of [the salaries] because they still have to meet the minimum teaching salary for the institution and that one was set at \$39,036," Chavez said.

She said that UTRGV would not convert anybody from nonexempt to exempt.

In an interview Oct. 25, Michael James, UTRGV chief Human Resources officer, said the threshold for a nonexempt position was being raised from \$23,600 to \$47,476 and jobs that are lower than that exemption threshold will have to be nonexempt.

Every year that the threshold remains unchanged, it covers fewer workers.

According to the overtime rule, the Labor Department will address this by updating the salary threshold every three years, beginning Jan. 1, 2020. Each update will raise the standard threshold to 40 percent, estimated to be \$51,168 in 2020.

--Jesus Sanchez contributed to this report.

## One gift, one smile

Nubia Reyna  
THE RIDER

The University Library is offering "Toys for Fines," a six-week event in which students can donate toys in order to eliminate fees for their past due books.

"It is such a great feeling, and I really would like to see students be a part of this," said Associate University Librarian Annabel Treviño. Treviño and other staff members have donated toys for the program.

The event started with legacy institution UT Brownsville in 2013.

"The toys have been donated to the Good Neighbor Settlement House," Treviño said.

Continuing tradition, this year the toys will go to the nonprofit multiservice agency again.

"They are going back to the community,

for the children that are in most need," she said.

All toys have to be unwrapped and new. Stuffed animals and toys representing firearms or weapons will not be accepted.

The number of toys required for donation will depend on the amount owed.

Students who owe between \$1.50 and \$10, may donate four toys; \$10.01-\$20, six toys; \$20.01-\$30, eight toys; \$30.01-\$50, 10 toys.

"UTRGV is helping students in clearing out those fines and giving back to the community," Treviño said. "We personally deliver the toys."

Liliana Sanchez, access services librarian, also believes this is a great opportunity for students to help the community and clear the fines.

"Not only the children are happy, the



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

The "Toys for Fines" drive, sponsored by the UTRGV Library, is accepting toy donations until Dec. 19 in Brownsville, Edinburg and Harlingen in lieu of payment for past due books.

staff members are very grateful that the university is reaching out to them and helping the community," Sanchez said.

Communication junior Bianca Rocha,

a library student assistant, believes that this is the perfect time to donate toys.

"The holidays are coming up and it is

See **TOYS**, Page 10

## Libraries to extend hours during Finals Week



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIEL MATA

Bryan Ramos  
THE RIDER

UTRGV libraries will provide students with an extra boost during the stress of final exams by extending hours Dec. 8 through 15 for Finals Week.

The Edinburg and Brownsville campus libraries will be open 24 hours a day for five days during December for Finals

Week and will offer free coffee to students from midnight to 7 a.m.

Extended hours will begin from 7:30 a.m. to midnight on Dec. 8 for students hoping to get some work done before the weekend. On Dec. 10, the libraries will be open during their regular hours of 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Starting Dec. 11, the library will open

at 1 p.m. and remain open 24 hours a day until 10 p.m. Dec. 15. On Dec. 16, the libraries will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

UTRGV University Librarian Paul Sharpe said this is something the library can do to lend students a helping hand during the highs and lows of Finals Week.

"It gives us the opportunity to provide

students with a place to study," Sharpe said. "They're cramming for finals, working in small groups or large groups, knowing that time is not on your side during finals; so, anything we can do to provide people with a place to meet, study, read, work on the computer, we just feel like that's what we can do to

See **LIBRARY**, Page 10



# Vaquero Voice

## Registration



*“Yo, ahorita, he estado teniendo muchos problemas para registrarme, en especial con las clases de biomedicina. Dice que necesitamos unos prerrequisitos pero ya los tomé todos o los voy a completar el semestre que viene y ahorita están de que van a checar persona por persona y van a registrarnos [el departamento de biomedicina]. Pero creo que eso se va a tardar mucho y no voy a alcanzar a meter mis clases con el maestro que yo quiero, que necesito”.*

**Viviana Uriegas**  
Estudiante de tercer año en ciencias biomédicas

“I feel like it’s one of the most hectic nights of the semester because everybody is just waiting for 11:59 [p.m.] to hit the clock. And, like, sometimes when you are registering, your class might be taken, so you have to redo your schedule all over again, and that is very frustrating. Then the next day you are really tired because you didn’t sleep at all.”



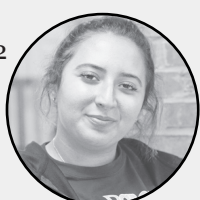
**Elias Farias**  
Business junior



“I’m actually getting advised today. I usually register really late, so I have trouble getting the classes I want. This time, I tried to do it as early as I could. I already checked some classes and they’re already filling up like crazy. I usually try a week before classes, actually, start but this major, classes fill up like crazy.”

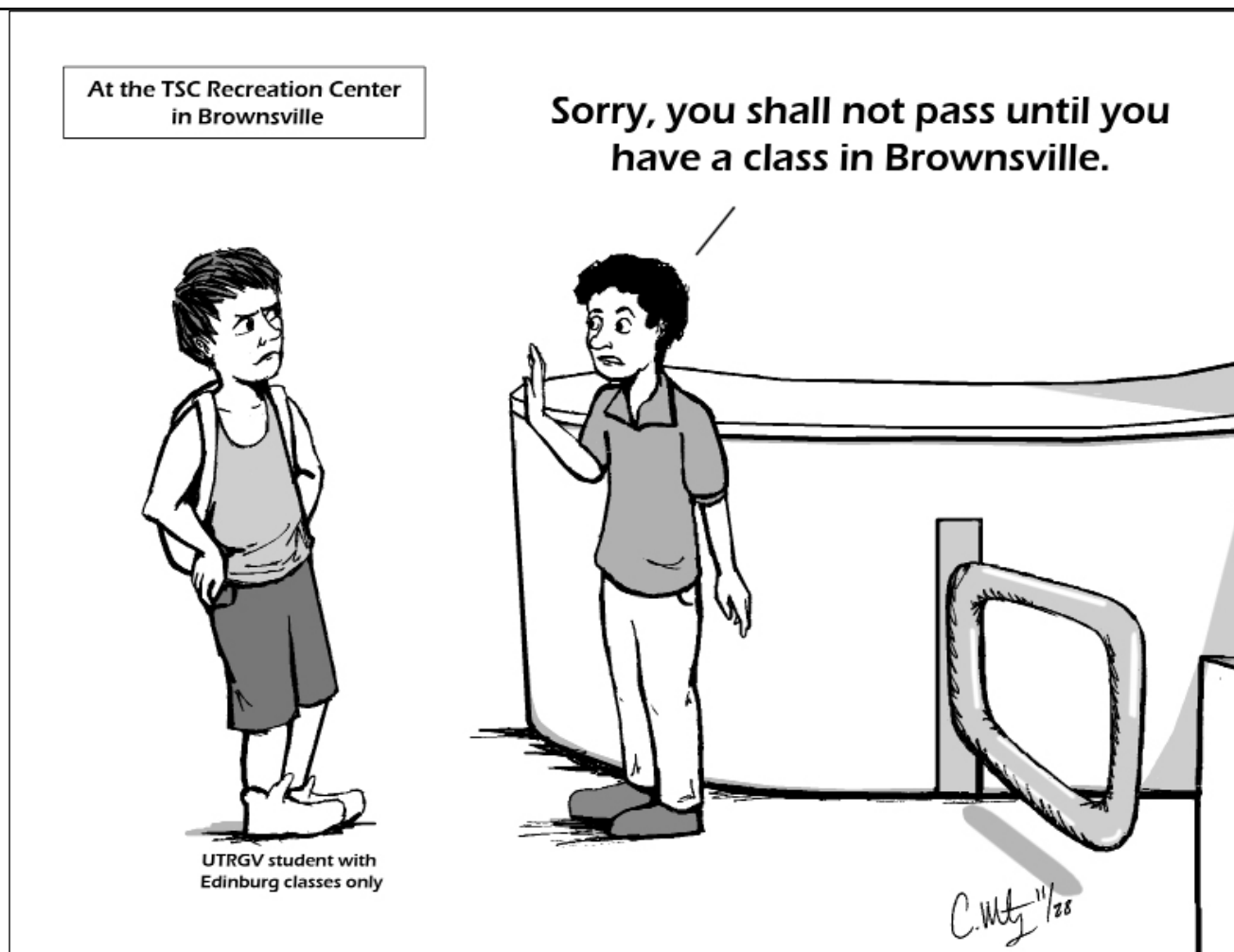
**Richard Garza**  
Theater/Television/Film junior

“I can’t register until [Nov. 17] at 12 a.m. I register late for this semester, so my schedule is way off. This time, I’m making sure my schedule for next semester is good.”



**Brianna Mendoza**  
Marine biology freshman

--Compiled by Ana Cahuiche and Gabriel Mata



## A grain of salt helps the truth go down



**Nathaniel Mata**  
SPORTS EDITOR

If a major crime is committed at 8:30 you can bet that tweets will be live at 8:31. News organizations will be on the scene in less than five minutes and their stories will be online or on TV by 10.

That’s the climate of media now. If you aren’t doing things quick, at a mile a minute, you are a mile behind. The speed of technology allows news consumers to find out information with about two clicks and three scrolls of their smart phone.

As a young person and journalist, it is really quite beautiful. I can get updates on sports, world politics, local politics and legislation all without leaving the Twitter or Facebook application on my phone.

If digital media wasn’t flawed, it would be perfect. The glaring problems, however, have reared their ugly head as of late. “Fake news” and misinformation was a huge part of this year’s general election.

A report by BuzzFeed’s Craig Silverman states that this so-called fake news had actually outperformed credible news articles on Facebook in the three months leading up to the Nov. 8 election.

What is fake news and how can we keep it off the screens of millions of people? These stories come from websites that are either not doing real reporting or just flat out making up a headline that sounds like it could be legit.

Often, the post comes from alt-right groups to motivate their base. Top headlines from this election include a false claim of the pope endorsing President-elect Donald Trump and WikiLeaks confirming Hillary Clinton sold weapons to ISIS. Both of those headlines are pretty unlikely, but not completely implausible, which is what makes them so widespread.

It’s important to remember that this news is made up. It’s shared millions of times because folks take a headline at face value as fact. A scroll through a newsfeed can be full of false information because there is no real vetting in posting a news link through a social media site.

Facebook or Twitter shouldn’t have the obligation to

take down headlines or links that are obviously a hoax. When browsing social media, it has to be the reader’s responsibility to get the URL of the site or even an account name. It might be hard to distinguish the look of a page, but reading a few lines into a bogus report should be enough.

I don’t want to assume everyone lacks common sense; I believe some of it just has to do with how quick we scroll and see headlines. Sharing a post or hitting retweet can be just a reaction after a shocking story. This blind sharing of misinformation can turn into a snowball of misguided audiences.

If you take some of the verbal vomit you read from ultrapartisan websites at face value and immediately turn around and share it with an entire friends list, there are bound to be more scrollers who eat it up.

The worst part of the situation is that people feel like they are informed. Imagine basing an argument off a fake news story you “liked.” There are no winners in that dialogue.

Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg displayed denial when it was implied that fake news could have propelled Trump to surprise victory, calling it “crazy” in an interview. It’s hard to believe that Zuckerberg doesn’t have full knowledge that his media apparatus can shift political views from posts on the site.

Even if we give Zuckerberg a pass here and downplay the influence of hoax news on elections, wouldn’t he want his site clear of bogus articles? Maybe he values clicks and ad revenue or just on-site interactions more than the truth in reporting, but it’s really a plague to the public getting facts.

Regardless of what social media companies should do to respond to fake news continuing to wreak havoc, consumers need to step up, too.

Google the article you see that seems obscure, make sure you see the same story reported from multiple credible sources before you share with hundreds of your cousins and extended friends.

It’s on us to be savvy about the news we can consume. As convenient as it is to get all of our knowledge from the palm of our hands, buying into lies is just as easy, and being a gullible internet user can be a path to dangerous ignorance, all stemming from a preventable epidemic.

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# Meet Sarah Rowe

**Name:** Sarah Rowe  
**Title:** Assistant professor  
**Department:** Sociology and Anthropology  
**Degree:** Doctorate in anthropology from the University of Illinois in 2014  
**Hometown:** Milwaukee  
“I’m an anthropologist, an archaeologist specifically. I specialize in the pre-Hispanic cultures of coastal Ecuador as well as issues of cultural heritage and community archaeology. So, having local communities, indigenous groups participate and having a voice in the way archaeology is conducted in their lands and their communities.”  
**What made you pursue teaching?** “Well, it’s always been something I enjoyed. To interact with students, share what I’ve learned, have them influence me as well with their ideas and sort of push me to find out more about the subjects I’m interested in, to fulfill their curiosity. So, there’s always been an interest, but I think there’s also an extra element of it that when we’re doing archaeology. It’s a discovery process and I think that sort of thing happens in the classroom. So, there’s sort of a natural extension from the research or specialization into the things that we do in the classroom.”  
**As an assistant professor, what are your duties?** “I’m an assistant professor, meaning I’m on the tenure track. So, my responsibilities are a mixture of teaching classes and conducting research and service to the university as well. When I’m not in the classroom or preparing for a lecture, I write proposals to granting agencies to fund future research. I’ll be doing analysis of data I’ve collected in the past and writing articles for publications, or I’ll be sitting in on vari-

ous committee meetings with other faculty members to keep the governance of the university going.”  
**What kind of research?** “So, I focus primarily with the material from coastal Ecuador. I work mostly with ceramics. I do ceramic analysis. I’ve studied various culture groups dating all the way back to 4400 B.C.; a culture called Valdivia, which was one the earliest ceramic-producing cultures in the Americas dating all the way to the pre-contact period; a culture called Montano, which dates from 650-1532 A.D.; so, they were the ones on the coast of Ecuador when the Spanish arrived. So, dealing with issues of social identity and group identification, so how people will say, ‘I belong with this group, and this group extends through these regions’ about being a part of shared identity. I also do some work called digital archaeology, which uses various technologies for 3-D scanning and printing to take the information that we gather at an archaeological site and make it accessible to not just other scholars, but also the public. We are just underway getting a new laboratory here on campus, which will be known as the Anthropology Digital Visualization Laboratory. We will have equipment to do 3-D laser scanning of artifacts as well as what is known as photogrammetry, where you take digital images of an object from various angles and a computer program puts those pieces together to create a 3-D model. We’ll also have a 3-D printer to print artifacts for use in the classroom and in the community.”  
**What do you do for students?** “I am one of the faculty advisers for the Anthropology Club, so giving direction when



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

direction is needed. I also advise some graduate students in their research, devise some research programs. I have a new project that is going to be underway soon on the coast of Ecuador, so I’m hoping to get more undergraduates involved as well. Even a mini field school where students get the chance to come to Ecuador and learn how to excavate and learn about the culture.”  
**What classes do you teach?** “This semester, I am teaching two courses. I am teaching Human Evolution and a special topics course on cultural heritage. So, I teach a Human Evolutions course pretty much every semester, but I also teach courses like Introduction to Archaeology, Archaeology Method and Theory, and South American Archaeology. I think we have Mesoamerican and Maya Archaeology coming in another year or so. So if it’s archaeology, I am teaching it, basically.”  
**How can students reach you?** “Email is probably best for that initial contact and I have office hours on Mondays

and Wednesdays this semester, but I am always open for scheduling a special meeting if a student writes to me and wants to get more information.”  
**What was the last book you read?** “The last book I read was actually a mystery book for fun. Mystery, I think, is my favorite genre. Some people think archaeologists, because we dig, we must love to garden, and for me, it is totally not true. What I do love is the mystery in piecing a bit of the puzzles together. You do it for archaeology and you do it when you read these mysteries. So, I read one that is called “The Night Visitor.” The protagonist is an officer of the Southern Youth Nation out in Colorado. So, there are elements of traditional youth practice, as well as a murder mystery, of course, combined with a little bit of anthropology and archaeological investigation.”  
**What are some of the songs on your music playlist?** “Adele. If students see me driving around, they will probably see me singing in my car. Also, I have been listening to “Lem-

onade” by Beyoncé a lot, Sleater Kinney, which is another favorite. Female artists mostly, and ones that I can sing along to.”  
**What do you like to do on your free time?** “I don’t always get very much free time, but I have a daughter who keeps me running around quite a lot. When I have a quiet moment, I like to read and I also knit. I love to go hiking, getting time outdoors and spending time outside.”  
**Would you like to add anything else?** “I will encourage [students] to take at least one anthropology class in their time here at UTRGV. I think whether you are taking Human Evolution, Intro to Cultural Anthropology or Intro to Archaeology, the classes are going to give you a different perspective than what you come to the university with. I think it will help broaden your horizons and make you a more active citizen in your future.”  
--Compiled by Sarah Carvajal and Lesley Robles

## Club Spotlight



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Members of the UTRGV Multilingual Drama Club-Brownsville include (front row, from left), Kimberly Rosas, club adviser Suzanne Lalonde and Emma Guevara. Second row: Francisco Arredondo, Maria Fernanda Gonzalez, Treasurer Adeline Cornejo, Sarai Madrigal, Felicia Flores, Rita Salazar and Mariana Arredondo. Back row: Ellie Cantu, Marisol Sánchez Cortez, President Rebeca Salomón and Vice President Berenice Sainz.

**Name:** UTRGV Multilingual Drama Club-Brownsville  
**Purpose:** To practice English, Spanish and French while promoting cultural diversity through puppet shows and plays.  
**President:** Rebeca Salomón  
**Vice President:** Berenice Sainz  
**Treasurer:** Adeline Cornejo  
**Adviser:** Suzanne Lalonde, Literatures and Cultural Studies associate professor, and Karen Benavente, Literatures and Cultural Studies visiting associate professor.  
**Activities:** Puppet shows for local elementary schools and plays.  
**Meetings:** 10:40 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Fridays in Main Building Room 1.224  
**Membership requirements:** Must attend all meetings, be enthusiastic, love learning languages, interested in acting and have a 3.2 GPA or higher.  
**Upcoming plays:** “Don Quixote Lost in Translation in Spanish, English and French” at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9 and at 2 p.m. Dec. 10 in the SET-B Lecture Hall. “*El Retablo de las Maravillas*” by Cervantes at 2 p.m. Dec. 11 in the SET-B Lecture Hall and at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 12 in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. General admission is \$5 and free for UTRGV students.  
**For more information, email:** suzanne.lalonde@utrgv.edu  
--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza

## 5 movies

### to be released in December



SERGIO GARCIA/THE RIDER

**Sergio Garcia**  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

**1. “Rogue One: A Star Wars Story”**  
This film is set between Episode III and Episode IV and it revolves around the Death Star. A group of resistance fighters unite to try and steal the Death Star plans. The cast includes Felicity Jones, Diego Luna, Mads Mikkelsen and Forest Whitaker. This movie is expected to hit the big screen Dec. 16.  
**2. “Assassin’s Creed”**  
Michael Fassbender produced and stars in the popular video game franchise adaptation, “Assassin’s Creed.” Fassbender plays Callum Lynch, a

modern-day descendant of a 15th century assassin, Aguilar de Nerha, who was a member of the Spanish Brotherhood. A company called Abstergo Industries fakes the death of Callum in order to force him to relive the memories of his ancestor. Even though some scenes are placed in the modern day, the majority of the movie is set during the Spanish Inquisition. The film is scheduled for release Dec. 21.  
**3. “Office Christmas Party”**  
Probably the last comedy to be released this year, “Office Christmas Party” is set to be screened Dec. 9. It’s almost  
See **MOVIES**, Page 10



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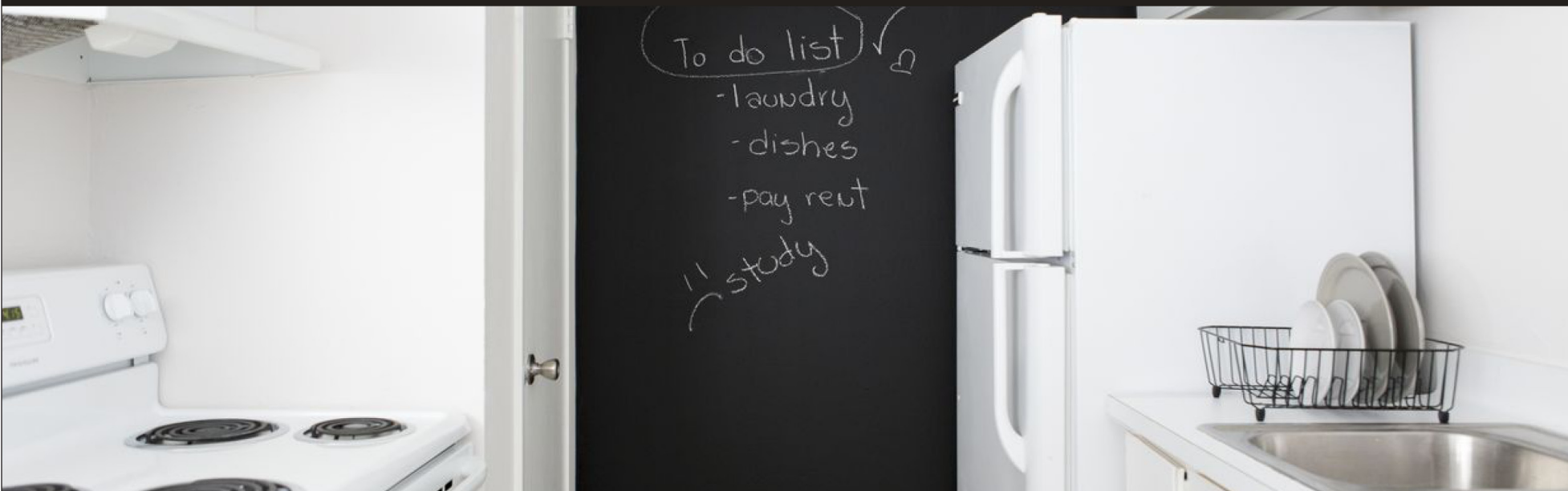


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# DACA: ¿el sueño vuelto pesadilla?

## Sentimientos de incertidumbre y angustia se alzan entre estudiantes



FOTO CORTESÍA DEL CONSULADO DE MÉXICO EN McALLEN

Miembros de la Red DACA del consulado de México en McAllen se reúnen con el cónsul titular Guillermo Ordorica, la cónsul Adscrita Socorro Jorge y la cónsul Olivia Rubio.

Oscar Castillo y Rebeca Ortiz  
THE RIDER

Desde que Donald Trump fue electo presidente al inicio del mes, María Hernández y su hermana, Maritza, se han quedado con un sentimiento de incertidumbre.

Las hermanas Hernández son DREAMers, individuos que cumplen los requisitos de Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA). En el 2001, la legislatura Texana pasó el proyecto de ley 1403, también conocido como el DREAM Act (por sus siglas en inglés), el cual extiende colegiatura estatal y elegibilidad para becas para los ciudadanos no residentes del estado, de acuerdo a la página de forabettertexas.org.

La estudiante de primer año de UTRGV Maritza Hernández, quien ha vivido en los Estados Unidos desde que tenía dos años, dice no saber lo que el presidente electo hará respecto al DREAM Act porque “sigue cambiando de parecer”.

“En una ocasión dijo que lo iba a quitar”, dijo la joven de 21 años. “Y ahorita está diciendo que nada más a los criminales, ¿sabes?, la gente que ha hecho algo en contra de la ley. Así que es incierto, no sé qué hacer, si me quedo o me voy o qué, ¿sabes?”.

En el sitio oficial de campaña de Trump se establece que “se terminará inmediatamente las dos amnistías ejecutivas ilegales del Presidente Obama”.

Esto se refiere a las dos acciones ejecutivas del Presidente Barack Obama del 2014, donde se expandió la Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA), una póliza que ofrece protección temporal de deportación a los jóvenes que llegaron de niños a Estados Unidos, siempre y cuando demuestren que cumplen con varios criterios, de acuerdo al sitio whitehouse.gov.

Además, padres de ciudadanos americanos y residentes podían solicitar la Acción Diferida para Padres de Ciudadanos Estadounidenses y Residentes Permanentes Legales (DAPA, por sus siglas en inglés).

Rossy Evelin Lima, coordinadora de Red DACA, coalición entre la Fundación Latinoamericana de Artes y el Consulado Mexicano en McAllen, la cual provee

información gratis a las personas con DACA, dijo que el número total de DREAMers en el Valle es desconocido, ya que contabilizarlos podría significar ponerlos en riesgo.

“Estadísticamente sería favorable que se contabilizara, pero desde un punto de vista social también se trata proteger a esta comunidad y contabilizarlos talvez también podría ponerlos en riesgo con ciertos grupos ... que no están a favor de este tipo de propuestas”, dijo Lima.

En UTRGV, 938 DREAMers están inscritos.

“Cada estudiante de UTRGV es querido”, dijo Kristin Croyle, vicepresidenta de Éxito Estudiantil. “Me refiero en un sentido amplio; queremos que cada estudiante que tenemos sienta que los apoyamos, y en este momento creo que el presidente está considerando lo que podemos hacer en el nivel de universidad para poder apoyar y abogar mejor por esos estudiantes. Las instituciones públicas tienen la responsabilidad de denunciar lo que sabemos son hechos, pero estamos limitados en nuestras habilidades de abogacía política”.

Croyle dijo que aunque ningún estudiante la ha buscado por sentirse con miedo o incertidumbre acerca del presidente electo Trump, ella entiende que pudiera haber mucha angustia en la comunidad del campus por la elección presidencial.

“A menudo, esos estudiantes voltean a la facultad y al staff con el que ya trabajan de cerca en busca de apoyo”, dijo ella. “Puede que no vengan con los de administración como con cualquier mentor de la facultad. ... Solo porque yo no he tenido ningún estudiante, he escuchado que algunos de la facultad están apoyando a los estudiantes que están preocupados”.

Maritza Hernández dice que no le

importaría irse a México, pero se preocupa por su madre que está enferma. “Por mí, realmente no me importa mi persona, o que pase, pero me preocupo por mi madre porque ella está enferma y le tienen que realizar la diálisis. Es diabética. Tiene problemas oftalmológicos”, dijo ella. “Así que por mí, yo puedo ir a México y hacer mi vida allá, ¿pero ella? Ella necesita toda esta atención médica y la está

recibiendo aquí. Si nos vamos a México, vamos a tener que empezar de nuevo”.

La joven de 28 años dijo que no todos los inmigrantes son iguales.

“No todo el mexicano que viene aquí, no todo el inmigrante que viene aquí es un criminal”, dijo ella. “Yo no sé si [Trump] me considera una criminal. ... Todos estos años he trabajado muy duro”, dijo María Hernández, quien trabajó muchas horas

“No todo el mexicano que viene aquí, no todo el inmigrante que viene aquí es un criminal. ... Yo no sé si [Trump] me considera una criminal. ... Todos estos años he trabajado muy duro.”

María Hernández  
Egresada de UTB/TSC

que viene aquí es un criminal”, dijo ella. “Yo no sé si [Trump] me considera una criminal. ... Todos estos años he trabajado muy duro”, dijo María Hernández, quien trabajó muchas horas

extras para poder pagar por sus dos Asociados en Educación de UTB/TSC, ya que no calificó para muchas becas. “Me costó lágrimas”.

Ella ni siquiera sabía que podía ir a la universidad. Sin embargo, se inscribió en Texas Southmost College tan pronto se graduó de la preparatoria.

Para poder calificar para DACA, tuvo que comprobar que vivía en Texas y entregar una firma de la policía.

“Queremos que sepan de la gente que está invirtiendo en este país. ... La gente piensa que no pagamos impuestos, que solo estamos viviendo gracias a estampillas para alimentos, Medicaid y beneficios de desempleo”, dijo ella.

A lo largo de su vida ha escuchado comentarios ásperos tales como “¿Porque estás tomando trabajos americanos?” y “¡No sueñas como un Americano!”

“Es duro tener todos esos comentarios. ... Espero que Trump piense en todas esas cosas”, dijo María Hernández, quien también espera que todos obtengan una solución.

Acerca de la posibilidad de regresar a México, dijo que sería difícil para ella regresar a Matamoros porque toda su educación está aquí. “Tenemos discriminación en nuestro propio país”.

María Hernández solicitó la renovación del programa DACA pero no ha recibido respuesta.

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# The next wave is here

## Strong recruiting class hopes to cement women's program

**Nathaniel Mata**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Even before the creation of the new university and the boost athletics received as a result, there was something stirring. Women's basketball was the first team to really take strides in improvement.

Larry Tidwell, head coach of the UTRGV Women's Basketball Team, is the lead architect in the upward motion the program has taken. All three of his seasons at the helm of the team have seen an improved record.

In the 2013-14 season, the Broncs' 14 wins were second best in program history. The next two years were 19-win campaigns that ended in the conference championship game.

One constant has remained through Tidwell's tenure, the influence of freshmen and underclassmen. In his first season, his leading scorer was a freshman, Shawnte' Goff. Even though she's been the leading scorer on the team since her first year, that hasn't stopped newcomers from also making a big impact on the squad.

In the 2014-15 season, it was Hildur Kjartansdóttir making an impression, earning 16 starts that year and leading the team in rebounds eight times. Kjartansdóttir also made it to the All-WAC Newcomer team at season's end.

Last year, it was Bernesha Peters who stepped into the role of wonder freshman. Peters led the team in scoring and assists four times each last season. Even while playing through injury in her first year, she averaged 10.5 points in conference play.

This season, however, it remains to be seen if a freshman will step into a crucial role. There are four incoming freshmen on the roster.

Tidwell praised his recruiting class, and the player he felt was furthest along in development. The coach also said he would put the best combination of players regardless of classification.



PHOTO COURTESY DANIEL FLORES

The women's basketball team gathers during UTRGV Madness to watch their teammate Hildur Kjartansdottir shoot a free throw. The team has four freshmen hoping to make an impact on the squad.

"We have a nice recruiting class. Megan [Johnson], right now, is at the head of that recruiting class. We're just trying to bring them along and getting better," Tidwell said. "You come in and you earn playing time every day. We're trying to find the best mix and the best team."

Tidwell said guards play an important role as they facilitate the plays.

"Guards win championships for us; post players have to win a lot of games. Guards win championships because if you can't get it to the post players, you're not doing what you need to do," the four-year head coach said.

Johnson comes to the team

from Newcastle, Australia. The 5-foot-10-inch guard has been getting reps in practice and has seen game action already.

"No matter what, I want to work hard and earn my minutes and I want to prove that I'm here for a reason, that's my motivation," Johnson said. "They expect you to work and you're rewarded for that sort of behavior. Transitioning in as a freshman is always going to be difficult, but the older girls have really helped out and stepped up as leaders."

The Australian, and all the other guards on the team, have the ability to work directly with one of the top players in the conference on a daily basis.

Goff, the four-year starter, is someone everybody is able to look up to.

"Every day, we're working against the WAC player of the season last year. She pushes me, like all the older girls," Johnson said. "You may not be at that level yet, but that's what they want you to work towards."

Goff has seen four different recruiting classes, including her own, and said the talent level of newcomers hasn't changed and that's a positive.

"We kind of recruit those players who are gonna fit right in with the way that we play. We don't recruit anyone that's different and we're [not] going to change [that]," she said. "The

level of talent has definitely stayed the same, which sounds like a bad thing, but it's not; we've had winning seasons. As far as recruiting, I think they're doing a really good job."

It would be unfair pressure to expect a freshman to be the next Vaquera with conference freshman of the year honors. It also wouldn't be a complete surprise considering the immediate success many women have had under Tidwell's leadership.

The freshmen and underclassmen will be the focus in just a few short seasons, so their roles will be under close watch this year as they pave the way for an increasingly powerful program.

# Extinction was inevitable



**Nathaniel Mata**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Who doesn't appreciate a good oxymoron? Jumbo shrimp. Great depression. Humble Kardashian. RGV ice hockey.

It was a big deal when yellow-faced bees were finally added to the endangered species list, a huge success for environmentalists.

In the Rio Grande Valley, the Killer Bees were less successful in attempting to prolong their lifespan. And yes, I'm talking about hockey again. If you know me, personally, it's all I ever talk about, if you give me the chance.

As a self-proclaimed hockey aficionado, I can tell you the Killer Bees absolutely had no business lasting more than a few seasons in the Valley, specifically Hidalgo. This area is just about as far from the hockey epicenter as you can get without leaving the country altogether.

Don't get me wrong; when the team first arrived in 2003, there was a lot of excitement. The 5,500-seat Dodge Arena (now the State Farm Arena) was more than halfway full a lot of nights and it was an overall great environment. So, to say they were destined to fail would be un-

fair. They opened a nice arena that was perfect for a small market. All the seats had a great view.

As a hockey fan who had just moved to the Valley from another not-so-traditional hockey market of San Jose, Calif., I felt like I had hit the jackpot with an ice hockey team a short drive away from my home. For years, it was really the perfect situation for me.

The Killer Bees never had an outstanding season, but it was good entertainment. They were even affiliated with AHL San Antonio and NHL Florida, which was a big deal.

It was soon evident that the new car smell of the Killer Bees didn't last long and for the rest of their time here, it was pretty desolate in Hidalgo.

Any mention of the hockey team with locals usually ends with, "Yeah, I used to love going to games; it's so cool when they fight!" That's where I usually stop the conversation because fighting is a

part of hockey in such a minimal way; if that's your impression of the sport, then I don't have the time of day.

I won't bore you with the year-by-year history of the Killer Bees' decline, but the stability of the league they started in, the CHL, was an issue. Their closest rivals from Laredo, Austin, and Corpus Christi all folded and the 2012-13 season was canceled.

I thought it was all over then. It was a sad day for me and the other 75 Winter Texans that actually went to a portion of the Bees' home games. However, it was a reality we were all ready for. The new-look Killer Bees, actually, was the best version of the team it ever put on the ice. The league was completely different; it was a Tier-2 junior league, which meant all of the players were about teen-aged, most playing in an attempt to earn a spot on a college roster.

By 2013, when the team came back,

“ This isn't the best hockey market, but it sure was fun. You were great while you lasted, Killer Bees. I'll always be your biggest fan. ”

my knowledge (borderline obsession) of hockey had grown and I attended more games than I ever had. Life was good for the short time it lasted. However, I was still one of maybe 800 fans on a good night. Winter Texans from the two trailer parks that got bused to the games knew me on a first-name basis.

It finally ended not with a bang, but with a whimper. The team made the playoffs in the spring but by the next fall, it had relocated to some small Pennsylvania town.

Now, to watch hockey, I'd have to drive out of the Valley to watch a minor league team either in Corpus Christi, San Antonio or Austin.

I guess I shouldn't have expected hockey to last long here in the first place. But, after more than a decade of having a team in the backyard, it's a tough pill to swallow.

So, until I decide to pack my bags and chase ice hockey somewhere around North America, my experience with the greatest game on Earth will be on a small monitor as I stream grainy games on my laptop.

This isn't the best hockey market, but it sure was fun. You were great while you lasted, Killer Bees. I'll always be your biggest fan.



REC  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

can use both rec centers, said Annette Livas, associate director of Wellness and Recreational Sports for University Recreation.

Livas said she has started speaking with Vicenta Fernandez, director of the TSC Recreation Center, about opening access to UTRGV students who take all courses in Edinburg but live in Brownsville.

For students in situations such as Garza’s, Livas said she would like to handle them on a case-by-case basis.

If TSC would allow entry to students who take all classes in Edinburg but live in Brownsville, “we would somehow work out an agreement, and this agreement would obviously be done by upper administration,” she said.

During Fall 2015, more than 6,000 UTRGV students paid the recreation fee to the TSC Recreation Center, Livas said.

Every month, the Recreation Center

receives about 14,000 visits. Sixty-four percent of those visits are from UTRGV students and 36 percent are TSC students, according to Edgar Chrnko, TSC director of Marketing and Community Relations.

In the non-binding letter of intent signed in 2013, before the creation of UTRGV, UT System and TSC agreed the college-owned Recreation Center would be shared by UT Brownsville and TSC.

The letter of intent states TSC will permit all UT students enrolled at the Fort Brown and International Technology, Education and Commerce Center (ITECC) “physical campuses or other UT Brownsville campus facilities built in or near Brownsville to access the Recreation Center.”

Livas said it is important to note that the agreement did not take into consideration students who are going to be taking classes on both campuses or even multiple campuses.

“You can tell that certain situations were not addressed,” she said. “It is our

hope that this agreement would be re-addressed with UTRGV in mind.”

In November 2004, voters in the Southmost Union Junior College District approved a \$68 million bond issue to finance the construction of several buildings, including a kinesiology building. In March of that year, UTB/TSC students passed a referendum to assess themselves a fee to build a recreation center. When the programming process for both buildings took place, university officials and architects realized the items in both projects were similar and decided to build them as one facility, according to an article in the April 4, 2005, of *The Collegian*.

The amount of the bond issue was \$13,655,000, according to an email from Chrnko. Annual debt service ranges from \$360,000 to \$935,000 with interest of 3.5 percent to 5 percent. To date, \$3,800,000 has been paid off and it is estimated the debt will be paid off in August 2030.

The annual payment to TSC by the

UT System “shall be sufficient to pay UT’s share of the remaining annual debt service on the bonds,” according to the letter of intent.

This number is calculated each year based on the number of UT students attending classes at the Brownsville campus divided by the total enrollment of TSC students and UT students attending classes in Brownsville, the letter of intent states.

Livas explained that at this time UREC does not have a formal campaign informing students about how this agreement can affect their access to the facilities but staff plan to attend Student Government Association and student orientation meetings.

UREC staff members in Brownsville are housed in the Garza Gym on the TSC campus, but Livas said they hope to have at least one office in the TSC Recreation Center in the near future.

For more information about the Recreation Center, call UREC at 882-7176 or 665-7808.

DREAMERS  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a coalition of the Latin American Foundation of Arts and the Mexican Consulate at McAllen that provides free information to DACA recipients, said that the overall number of DREAMers in the Valley is unknown, and to count them could mean putting them at risk.

“Statistically, it would be better to count them, but from a social standpoint we also have to protect this community, and to count them might be putting them at risk from people who are not in favor of these kind of proposals,” Lima said.

At UTRGV, 938 DREAMers are enrolled.

“Every student at UTRGV is wanted,” said Kristin Croyle, vice president for Student Success. “I mean that in the broad sense; we want every student that we’ve got and we support them, and right now I think the president is considering

what we can do at the university level to best advocate and support those students. Public institutions have a responsibility to speak out about what we know to be the facts, but we are limited in our political advocacy abilities.”

Croyle said although no students have approached her about feeling scared or uncertain about President-elect Trump, she understands that there may be distress among the campus community because of the presidential election.

“Oftentimes, those students turn to the faculty and staff that they already work closely with for support,” she said. “They may not come to the administration, just like a faculty mentor. ... Just because I haven’t had any students approach me, I have heard from some faculty that they are supporting students who are concerned.”

Maritza Hernandez said she would not mind leaving to Mexico, but worries about her mother, who is sick.

“For me, I really don’t care about

myself or what happens, but I’m worried about my mother because she is sick and she has to go through dialysis,” Hernandez said. “She is diabetic. She has optical issues. So, for me, I can go to Mexico and make my life over there, but her? She needs all of this medical attention and is receiving it here. If we go to Mexico, we’re going to have to start all over again.”

The 28-year-old said not all immigrants are the same.

“Not every Mexican that comes here, not every immigrant that comes here is a criminal,” she said. “I don’t know if [Donald Trump] considers me a criminal. ... All these years, I’ve been working hard,” said Maria Hernandez, who worked many extra hours in order to pay for her two associate degrees in education from UTB/TSC because she did not qualify for many grants. “It cost me tears.”

Maria Hernandez, who didn’t know she could even go to college, enrolled in

Texas Southmost College as soon as she graduated from high school.

In order to qualify for DACA, she had to prove she lived in Texas and submit a police signature.

“We want them to know about the people investing in this country. ... People think we don’t pay taxes, that we’re only living under food stamps, Medicaid and unemployment,” she said.

Throughout her life she has heard harsh comments such as “Why are you taking American jobs?” and “You don’t sound like an American.”

“It’s hard to have all those comments. .... [I] hope Trump thinks about all those things,” Maria Hernandez said.

Regarding the possibility of going back to Mexico, she said it would be hard for her to go back to Matamoros because all her education is here. “We have discrimination in our own country.”

Maria Hernandez said she reapplied for the DACA program but has not heard back.

TOYS  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

more about giving out,” Rocha said. “The little kids are looking forward to these kind of days. Anything small is going to make them the happiest kids ever. Even if students don’t have a fine, they can come and spread love by giving toys to the community.”

Jessica Perez, a collections and archives student assistant, said, “When you donate a toy, you donate a smile.”

“Toys for Fines” will end Dec. 19.

For more information about volunteering or donating, visit the front desk at the library on all three campuses.

LIBRARY  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

promote student success on campus.”

After speaking with members of the UTRGV Student Government Association this year and last, Sharpe was open to providing 24-hour access for students after experimenting with extended hours during Finals Week last year, which resulted in a good turnout.

“Last fall, in 2015 and the spring of 2016, we extended our hours but we didn’t do anything for 24 hours,” Sharpe said. “To back things up, we stayed open later last year and there were numbers to show that the library was being used.”

Spanish senior Denisse Rodriguez, who visits the library nearly every day, said it’s good it will provide the facilities to students and is looking forward to the free coffee.

“I think it’s really good because there are students that really don’t have the facilities to get a computer anywhere or having the quietness to take a test or prepare for a test,” Rodriguez said. “So, it’s good they provide that facility and, plus, the coffee. Yeah, who doesn’t want a coffee?”

Biology sophomore Clarissa Mendiola arrives to the library at 8 a.m. and stays late some days to get work done. She said the library being open 24 hours a day during Finals Week could help her get that A she’s chasing.

“It’s a great opportunity. These are important tests. So, to have the chance to have somewhere we can study and know there are resources and materials around us, that enables us to really be more productive,” Mendiola said. “I need an A, so I’m going to do whatever I can to try and get that A. Now that I know that the library will be open [24 hours] during

Finals Week, I’ll make plans to come and take advantage of it.”

Sharpe said remaining open 24 hours a day and providing free coffee is part of the libraries’ efforts to help students out and is looking forward to doing more in the future if there is a good turnout of students during their extended hours.

“This is part of our efforts to help students in any way we can. We’re very excited to get more feedback from students and find out how we can make the library one of the most important places on campus and a place where students want to do their work,” Sharpe said. “If we see enough usage of the library during finals this fall and in the spring from students overnight, then we may expand those ideas, providing students with broader events.”

For a schedule of hours during Finals Week and more library information, visit [utrgv.edu/library](http://utrgv.edu/library).

it quickly becomes an action film after the ship starts to malfunction again and the passengers face annihilation along with 5,000 other people aboard the ship. This film is expected to be released Dec 21.

**5. “Collateral Beauty”**

Starring the never-aging Will Smith, whose character Howard Inlet is devastated after a tragedy. Inlet questions the universe by addressing letters to Love, Time and Death. Worried about his well-being, his friends develop a plan to make him confront his issues by making him understand how moments of loss can transcend into meaning and beauty. The film is scheduled for release Dec. 16.

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# Theater depicts the lives of Winter Texans

**Megan Gonzalez**  
THE RIDER

UTRGV University Productions presents “The Life and Times of Winter Texans,” a collection of eight original 10-minute plays, that will open at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Edinburg campus Studio Theatre.

The plays are written and directed by theater Professor Eric Wiley.

“It is based on my experiences with Winter Texans and with interest that I have as a writer ... for example, in aging, in issues of relationships and how aging impacts the human experience, in general,” Wiley said.

His past productions include “Crawling with Monsters,” “Technophilia,” “The Red and the Blue” and “Late Bloomers.” Wiley serves as a co-chair of the Theatre and Drama Area of the Popular Culture Association and a faculty adviser for the Latino Theatre Initiatives at UTRGV. His plays have won awards and been



MEGAN GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

produced on Theatre Row in New York City.

The cast is composed of Andres Cantu, David Cohen, Daniel Garza, Desery Pacheco, Jalen Portillo, Valerie Prince, Gerry Rodriguez and Danilo Zepeda.

“I am in three of the eight plays for ‘The Life and Times of Winter Texans.’ ... The first one I’m in is called ‘Colette,’ where I play a really grumpy winter Texan who sits on the same spot every day. ... But, my whole routine is thrown off when a newer individual in the park sits on my spot,” Portillo said.

The play will also be performed at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday.

Admission is \$5. Open seating is available for the public, but designated seating is available for large group reservations.

For more information, call Elva Galvan, theater business manager, at 665-3581 or email [elva.galvan@utrgv.edu](mailto:elva.galvan@utrgv.edu).

# A day of multicultural integration



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Physics graduate assistant Peng Geng (left) plays a match of gomoku, a traditional Japanese logic board game, against biomedical science sophomore Rafferty Wyatt during the Multilingua Fest Nov. 17 in the Salón Cassia lobby in Brownsville.



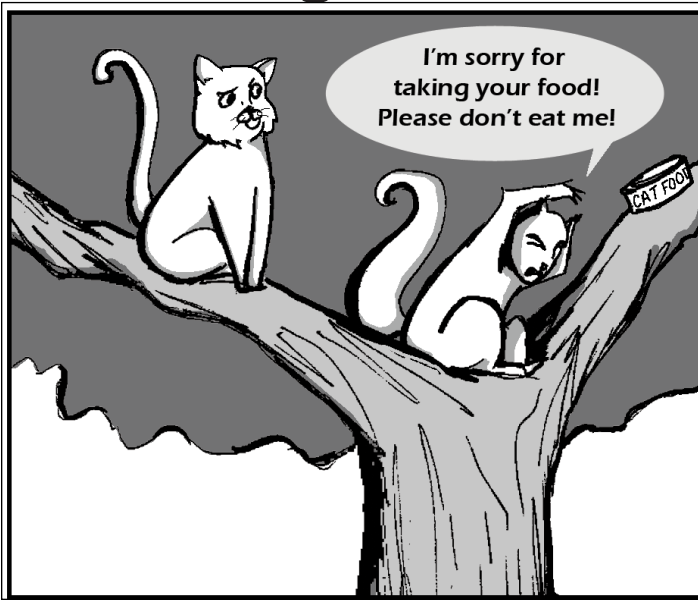
Music education senior Alejandra Velasquez (right) learns about the International Phonetic Alphabet and different types of phonetic symbols used in linguistics during the Multilingua Fest.



Xu Tang, a special assignments staff member for UTRGV Writing and Language Studies, teaches a student the techniques of jiānzhi, the traditional Chinese folk art of paper cutting, during the Multilingua Fest.

## Ride Along

By Clarissa Martinez





# Center for Online Learning & Teaching Technology



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