

THE RIDER

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Bailey: Not a good time to declare UTRGV a sanctuary campus

Rebeca Ortiz

SPANISH EDITOR

UTRGV President Guy Bailey says it would not be a good thing to declare the school a sanctuary campus at this time.

“There is no problem right now, and so, you stand a much greater chance of creating a problem if you make that declaration,” Bailey said in an interview Wednesday. “I know there’s been a lot of negative rhetoric in the campaign, but all the signals we get from Congress is that [mass deportation] is not

Versión en español,
Página 7

gonna happen. ... I think our DREAMers are safe and we are certainly supportive of them. I think this the best way to protect them.”

In light of the recent U.S. presidential election, nine student organizations have joined forces and petitioned Bailey to make the school a Sanctuary University.

The initial goal was to gather



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

500 signatures from students and members of the Rio Grande Valley community, but the petition has now received about 1,500 on the website, change.org.

The petition, addressed to Bailey, was written and signed by the Minority Affairs Council LUCHA (La Unión Chicanx Hijxs de Aztlán), the Center for Mexican American

Studies, Mexican American Studies Program, the Center for Bilingual Studies, the Muslim Students’ Association, WAKE-UP (Women Artistically Collecting Experiencias-Unidas

Prosperando), Voto Latino and BESO (Bilingual Education Student Organization).

The petition states that UTRGV has about 951 DREAMers, the most in Texas. Due to its proximity to the Mexican border, the organizations believe the institution should not remain neutral.

“We the students and faculty affiliated with the UTRGV Center for Mexican American Studies cannot remain idle and silent during these unpredictable times. We support our peers and students, especially our most disenfranchised, and petition that our University administration stand in solidarity with the calls on at least 130 other universities nationwide and declare UTRGV a sanctuary campus,” the Nov. 17 petition states.

Gov. Greg Abbott tweeted last Thursday, “Texas will not tolerate sanctuary campuses or cities. I will cut funding for any state campus if it establishes

See **SANCTUARY**, Page 15

More than 2,000 to graduate this month



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MARIO GONZALEZ

Monika Garza

THE RIDER

More than 2,000 UTRGV students will graduate Dec. 16 and 17, with one ceremony on the Brownsville campus and three at the McAllen Convention Center.

As of press time Thursday, a total of 2,370 students were scheduled to graduate. Of these, 1,694 will receive a bachelor’s degree and 676 a master’s, Maggie Hinojosa, vice president for Strategic Enrollment, told *The Rider* via email.

“It is always an exciting time for UTRGV to announce and graduate another group of students. This will be our second fall commencement ceremony

and we are looking forward to it,” said Patrick Gonzales, the university’s associate vice

In UTRGV’s first fall commencement last year, a total of 2,076 students graduated.

“ It is always an exciting time for UTRGV to announce and graduate another group of students. This will be our second fall commencement ceremony and we are looking forward to it.

Patrick Gonzales

Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Communications

president of Marketing and Communications.

In an interview with *The Rider*, communication studies

graduating senior Rebeca Rodriguez said she was excited about graduating and offered freshmen advice.

“I do encourage them that time management is everything when you are in college. I know it’s hard to manage your classes, and not only that but studying ... and also getting involved,” Rodriguez said

The Brownsville commencement ceremony for all colleges will start at 6 p.m. Dec. 16 on the Student Union lawn.

At the McAllen Convention Center, the commencement ceremonies will start at 9 a.m. for the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship and the College of Health Affairs; at 1 p.m. for the College of Engineering and Computer Science, College of Education and P-16 Integration and College of Sciences; and at 5 p.m. for the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Fine Arts.

UTRGV will have only one guest of honor instead of a keynote speaker at the 9 a.m. McAllen ceremony.

The distinguished guest of honor will be Robert C. Vackar, who donated \$15 million to the College of Business and Entrepreneurship, Gonzales said.

Asked why there would not be more distinguished guests of honor, Gonzales replied: “We just do not have any [more guests of honor]. I do not think there is a reason. We wanted to honor Robert C. Vackar at the 9

See **GRADUATION**, Page 14

Department to recognize graduate students

Megan Gonzalez

THE RIDER

The Human Development and School Services Department will conduct its annual hooding ceremony for



COURTESY PHOTO

Hilda Medrano, director of the Early Head Start Grant (left), and Laura Reyes, who received a master’s in early childhood education, are shown during last year’s ceremony.

85 graduate students in special education, school psychology, early childhood and educational diagnostician from 5 to 9 p.m. Dec. 16 at the Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg.

See **HOODING**, Page 15

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Course	CRN	Title	Instructor	Days	Start	End
ARTS 1304-01	54458	Art History II	Pizzinato R	M W	13:40	14:55
ARTS 1311-01	54459	Design I	Macias A	M W	19:20	22:00
ARTS 1316-01	54461	Drawing I	Palmenez N	T R	16:30	19:10
ARTS 1317-01	54463	Drawing II	De Luna C	T R	13:40	16:20
ARTS 2317-01	54466	Painting II	Macias A	T R	8:00	10:40
ARTS 2327-01	54467	Sculpture II	Rodriguez J	M W	10:50	13:30
ARTS 2347-01	54470	Ceramics II	Hawks G	M W	15:05	17:45
ARTS 2357-01	54471	Photography II	Fatica P	M W	19:20	22:00
ARTS 2361-01	54465	Computer Imaging I	Fatica P	T R	13:40	16:20
ARTS 2362-01	54464	Computer Imaging II	Fatica P	T R	13:40	16:20
ARTS 3341-02	55968	Interm Sculpture	Rodriguez J	T R	8:00	10:40
ARTS 4311-01	54475	Adv Drawing	Macias A	M W	15:05	17:45
ARTS 4331-01	54481	Adv Computer Imaging	Fatica P	T R	13:40	16:20
ARTS 4336-01	55942	Multimedia Production & Design	Fatica P	T R	13:40	16:20
ARTS 4337-01	54474	Digital Photography	Fatica P	M W	19:20	22:00
ARTS 4341-01	54476	Adv Sculpture	Rodriguez J	T R	8:00	10:40
ARTS 4359-01	55967	Seminar on Topic Art History	Pizzinato R	M W	10:50	12:05
ARTS 4371-01	54477	Adv Ceramics	Hawks G	M W	15:05	17:45

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 <div>\$346</div>	 <div>\$334</div>	 <div>\$195</div>	 <div>\$232</div>	 <div>\$299</div>	 <div>\$274</div>	 <div>\$184</div>	 <div>\$385</div>
 <div>\$231</div>	 <div>\$187</div>	 <div>\$189</div>	 <div>\$218</div>	 <div>\$264</div>			

Professors detail Mexican American textbook ‘fight’

Andrea Torres
THE RIDER



Christopher Carmona

Among its 500 pages, the textbook “Mexican American Heritage” states, “Chicanos, on the other hand, adopted a revolutionary narrative that opposed Western civilization and wanted to destroy this society.”

This statement is one of hundreds questioned by an ad hoc committee, created by District 2 State Board of Education member Ruben Cortez, which led to the board’s unanimous rejection of the book on Nov. 18. “Our ultimate goal is really about

bringing Mexican American studies to the schools but the textbook became this huge fight,” said Christopher Carmona, coordinator of UTRGV’s Mexican American Studies program in Brownsville and a creative writing assistant professor.

Carmona served on the ad hoc committee, along with 21 other university professors from across the state, that reviewed the textbook.

“Back in 2014, Ruben Cortez ... put forth a proclamation to create a stand-alone Mexican American studies course in the public school system in high schools,” Carmona said.

After it was denied, the state board issued a proclamation in 2015 seeking a textbook for the course. No books were presented until another proclamation was issued in 2016.

The only text submitted was “Mexican

American Heritage,” published by Momentum Instruction LLC. Cynthia Dunbar, a former State Board of Education member, is CEO of Momentum Instruction.

When the committee first reviewed the text, they found about 140 factual errors, Carmona said.

He assisted in reviewing the textbook’s rhetoric and discussion questions at the end of each chapter.

“Those discussion questions are important because that’s where actual critical thinking skills are applied,” Carmona said. “A lot of those questions were based on logical fallacies. They were based on what we would call leading questions.”

An example he gave was the question, “Is Chicano Studies beneficial to Mexican Americans?”

Carmona said it was a question that

was fine until the question that followed asks how Cesar Chavez challenges this view.

“What that does, when you put those two questions together, it makes you believe that he challenged those, which he never did,” Carmona said. “That’s just one example of what these questions were doing. It leads you to start to question what, actually, was not true.”

He said the committee “also found that the textbook, itself, was blatantly following a racist ideology.”

This ideology, Carmona said, mirrors that of scholar Samuel P. Huntington, who wrote a book titled, “Who Are We?: The Challenges to America’s National Identity.”

The thesis of Huntington’s book centers on the idea that Latinos are an “existential threat to the United States, to

See **TEXTBOOK**, Page 14

UTRGV one of the top 100 CLEP testing centers



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Lydia Melendez, a testing specialist (from left); Patrick McGehee, associate director of high school to university programs and testing services; and Sandra Barba, a testing specialist, stand inside the UTRGV testing facilities located at Resaca Village in Brownsville.

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

For the second consecutive year, UTRGV has placed as one of the top 100 testing centers in the nation for the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), a test that has been offered for more than 20 years.

“CLEP is based on the premise that some individuals enrolling in college have already learned part of what is taught in college through job training, independent reading and study, noncredit adult courses and advanced high school courses,” according to the

official CLEP guide. The exam is offered at 1,800 institutions nationwide and 2,900 colleges and universities.

The test provides individuals with the opportunity to demonstrate their mastery of college-level material by taking exams that assess the knowledge and skills taught in college courses, according to the guide.

“Students realized they only have to pay a minimum fee to register for the test, and if they pass the test, they will get at least three hours in the subject,” said Patrick McGehee, associate director of High School to University Programs and



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER

Testing Center Coordinator Sara Paz (left) is shown with Testing Specialists Ayissa Salinas and Melissa Pedraza are shown at UTRGV’s Testing Center in Edinburg.

Testing Services.

Students must pay a \$25 registration fee to UTRGV and an \$80 fee to the testing company.

“We offer a lot of CLEP testing,” McGehee said.

CLEP exams available are principles of accounting, introductory business law, information systems and computer application, principles of macroeconomic, principles of management, principles of marketing, biology, chemistry, college algebra, calculus, introductory psychology, human growth and development,

analysis and interpretation of literature, American literature, English literature, U.S. History I, U.S. History II, American government, introductory sociology, French, German and Spanish.

Students can take the CLEP in the Edinburg CESS Building and in Brownsville at the Resaca Plaza, McGehee said.

Students must check with their adviser to determine whether the credits fit their degree plan.

“We do not check that. If they sign up for the test, we administer the test,”

See **TESTING**, Page 14

Advice on the go

Driver spreads positivity among campus community

Sergio Garcia
THE RIDER

Transporting about 250 people between campuses on a daily basis, UTRGV Driver Juan Manuel “Manny” Espino estimates that he encourages, motivates and speaks with at least 150 students.

From a family of 11 siblings, Espino used to migrate between Mexico and the U.S. with his family to work in agriculture fields in various states, but mainly in California and Washington. His father was born in El Paso but they lived in Mexico because they had land of their own there.

“Cuando fuera grande yo quería ser como mi papá. Él era electricista, carpintero. De hecho, todavía hay casas que él hizo que siguen en pie”, Espino dijo. “Yo decía, ‘Cuando yo esté grande, quiero ser como mi papá porque todo lo que él dice sale cierto. Todo lo que habla tiene razón’. Para mí, él fue un ejemplo, mi ídolo”.

He was hired as a custodian for legacy institution UT Pan American in 2011, then he acquired a job as a shuttle bus driver after UTPA merged with UT Brownsville to become UTRGV in 2015 and he has been a bus driver since.

Espino transports members of the campus community to Edinburg, Harlingen and Brownsville.

Covering the night shift, Espino remembers how he struggled for a year to transition from part time to full time in the day shift.

“La gente que trabaja de noche sabe lo difícil y lo duro que es, no duermes, el tiempo, tu ritmo, y tu vida se voltea porque ya no estás en la casa en la noche”, Espino dijo. “Es otro tipo de ritmo que llevas, hasta para comer, porque trabajas de noche y duermes de día”.

Regardless of the issues that he faced, he always stayed positive.

“En ocasiones, me desesperaba, pero mi sueño

era quedarme con UTPA. Para mí, la universidad es la máxima casa de la cultura. Me gustaba, yo quería quedarme y me dieron la oportunidad. Me siento muy orgulloso del trabajo que he desempeñado en UTRGV. Desde que empecé como custodiano, todo lo he hecho con mucho gusto”.

Being a bus driver is what he enjoys the most.

“Cuando descanso, me desespero en ocasiones porque ya quiero regresar a trabajar. Es más que un trabajo, es mi vida, y en cierto modo hay muchos estudiantes que yo considero como familia”, Espino dijo.

Asked how much he liked his job, he replied, “I like my job; I love it.”

Espino loves his job as a shuttle bus driver; however, he used to dream of being an astronaut.

“Cuando era niño, siempre soñaba con que yo un día iba a ser astronauta e iba a ir a la

See **MANNY** Page 10



SERGIO GARCIA/THE RIDER

Juan Manuel “Manny” Espino

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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The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

YOUR NEWS IN ONE PLACE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

La Posada

Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority Inc. will host **La Posada** from 4 to 10 p.m. at the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. The event will have food and activities. Admission is free. For more information, email maria.neyra01@utrgv.edu.

Brass concert

The **UTRGV Brass Ensemble** will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the **UTRGV Performing Arts Complex Auditorium** in Edinburg. The concert will feature brass students. The concert is a culmination of rehearsals and faculty coaching throughout the semester. 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

Safe Zone Training

Student Involvement will host a **Safe Zone Ally Training** from 4 to 6 p.m. in Cortez Hall 118 in Brownsville and the University Center Brone Room in Edinburg. The training is interactive and is aimed at helping spread awareness of the LGBTQIA+ community. To RSVP, visit utrgv.collegiatelink.net/form/start/92453. For more information, call 665-2660.

Wednesday

Honoring Heroes

The **UTRGV Men's Basketball Team** will play against **Texas State University** at 7 p.m. in the UTRGV Fieldhouse. UTRGV Athletics will honor community heroes during the basketball game. If you would like to nominate someone who has been a positive

influence in the Rio Grande Valley community, share their story by sending it to **UTRGVNation.com/Hero**. Admission is free to all community heroes. For more information, call 665-2221.

Thursday

MLK Day volunteers needed

Thursday is the last day to register for the UTRGV Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, which will take place from 8 a.m. to noon Jan. 16, 2017, across the Rio Grande Valley. **Student Involvement** and the **Division of Governmental and Community Relations** will host the event. A reception and award ceremony will follow from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón in Brownsville and the University Recreation Building in Edinburg. The goal is to get 1,000 volunteers to help in a variety of projects in about 40 locations. Volunteers can consist of students and student organizations, campus departments, faculty, staff and members of the community. To register, visit www.ez.utrgv.edu. For more information, call 882-5111 in Brownsville or 665-2660 in Edinburg.

Food Sales

Hamburgers/hot dogs

The **Christians at RGV** will sell hamburgers from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. today in the Library BBQ area on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email anjel.morgano1@utrgv.edu.

Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc. will sell hot dogs and burger 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.

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Nov. 17 and 28.

Nov. 17

5:17 p.m.: An officer made contact with Texas Department of Public Safety investigators in reference to serving an arrest warrant on a male student. The student, who had an arrest warrant for possession of marijuana-second degree felony, was placed under arrest and later released to DPS investigators.

Nov. 1 8

11:21 p.m.: A staff member reported that a woman who sleeping inside Eidman Lecture Hall. The woman said she was homeless and needed a place to sleep. She was issued a written warning and was explained the consequences of returning to any UTRGV property.

Nov. 20

2:45 a.m.: While responding to an active fire alarm, a UTRGV officer detected a burning odor coming from a room in the Math General Classroom Building. The Edinburg Fire Department was dispatched to the location and deemed that the burnt odor was caused by the heating system turning on.

Nov. 21

12:10 p.m.: The Criminal Investigation Division is investigating an alleged misappropriation of university funds by an employee. The case is under investigation.

Nov. 22

1:45 p.m.: A student reported being contacted by a friend via text that a mutual friend was threatening to disseminate illicit photos of her via social media. The female student wanted to document the incident. She was told about available university services.

Nov. 23

10:51 a.m.: A student reported that a man invaded her personal space by touching her neck area and grabbing her arm without her consent on Nov. 10. The case is under investigation.

Nov. 25

3:39 a.m.: A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for traffic violations. Upon contact with the operator, the odor of marijuana was detected and the Police K-9 was alerted. A subsequent search revealed a usable quantity of marijuana inside the vehicle. The operator was

arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana and booked into the Edinburg Municipal Jail.

Nov. 26

4:27 p.m.: A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle after a record check revealed the temporary license plate on a vehicle came back to a different make and model vehicle. The driver was unlicensed and had no insurance. The license plate was confiscated and citations were issued for the traffic violations.

Nov. 27

3:57 p.m.: UTRGV officers conducted a traffic stop on a white sedan that engaged in reckless driving. Upon making contact with the operator, the officer detected a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage emitting from the driver's breath. The driver was asked to perform the Standard Field Sobriety Tests and performed poorly. She refused to provide a specimen of her breath, so the officer obtained a warrant for her blood specimen, which was signed by a Brownsville municipal judge. The operator was then transported to Valley Regional Medical Center in Brownsville, where a

Pizza

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

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

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.

Hot chocolate

Kappa Delta Chi Sorority-Alpha Beta will sell hot chocolate and *pan dulce* from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today and Tuesday in the Library CTY A area on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email ariana.castaneda01@utrgv.edu.

Chick-Fil-A

The **International Student Organization** will sell Chick-Fil-A combos for \$5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday at the Student Union in Brownsville. Combos will include a sandwich, chips and soda. For more information, email aldo.banuelos01@utrgv.edu.

Tamales

The **Geology Club** will sell Delia's Tamales from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Library Media Courtyard on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-3521.

--Compiled by Brenda Garza

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Combining talents to help the Valley

Interprofessional Education seeks student volunteers for community projects

Andrea Torres
THE RIDER

A 2003 study conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics found that half of Hidalgo County’s population lacked basic prose literacy skills.

The issue of illiteracy was presented during the School of Medicine Office of Interprofessional Education’s Meet and Greet, held Nov. 18 in the San Carlos Community Resource Center.

Bilingual education senior Leslie Velasquez, who was among 25 campus and community members who attended the event, sees the problem as an opportunity to start a program to assist people in expanding their language proficiency.

“Me, as a bilingual teacher, I would like to come with some of my other classmates, come and see maybe if there’s someone who can professionally do it,” Velasquez said. “Maybe help them to learn how to read or the same as the bilingual classes, maybe just give them a little more help with that.”

The first Meet and Greet took place at Proyecto Desarrollo Humano in Penitas, where some residents took part in community asset mapping, which will display the needs of the area.

“The students were distributed among the four different tables with community residents and we asked the residents to tell us what they considered as the community assets or resources,” said John Ronnau, School of Medicine senior associate dean for Interprofessional Education. “We’ll analyze those assets, those strengths and then go back to the community for the next meeting and start to identify where there may be gaps, there may be needs.”

The UTRGV Community-University Partnership, Community Hubs was created in collaboration with the UTRGV Colleges and the UTRGV Division of Governmental and Community Relations.

“The primary purpose of this project is to provide opportunities for students to learn how to work effectively in interprofessional, collaborative teams,” Ronnau said. “We are giving them those opportunities by assigning teams of interprofessional students to communities.”

With the help of the Hidalgo County Department of Health and Human Services and other county health departments in the Rio Grande Valley, other community centers that signed up for the inaugural teams are the Alamo Community Resource Center in Alamo;



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER
John Ronnau, senior associate dean of Interprofessional Education at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine, closes the meet and greet session with a speech in the San Carlos Community Center on Nov. 18.

El Paraiso on Mission’s north side; La Feria Community Resource Center in La Feria and La Victoria Community Center in Rio Grande City.

“All six communities are providing space in their community resource center at no cost to UTRGV,” Ronnau said.

See **LITERACY**, Page 10

Peacefully protesting for progress

Social work students organize, learn to create change

Bryan Ramos
THE RIDER

With the social and political climate that the country is in, it is important for everybody to be heard—but what about those whose voices go unheard?

UTRGV Associate Professor Noe Ramirez and social work master’s students in his Social Work Practice with Latinos course are learning how to take a stand on an important issue and organize the community to peacefully protest in order to raise awareness of different causes directly affecting the oppressed.

On Nov. 28, students in Ramirez’s course demonstrated peacefully outside the Social Work Occupational Therapy Building, carrying posters they made with phrases and slogans in support of a cause or injustice they strongly believe in.

Graduate student Arlene Laboy said this method of advocating and raising awareness is important in helping the



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER
Students in Noe Ramirez’s Social Work Practice with Latinos class hold up signs used in their mock protest. The course is telecast in Laredo at Laredo Community College (on screen).

culture and the oppressed.

“We believe this approach is extremely important within our campus and community members because it raises awareness on different strategies used to overcome oppression by bringing social injustices to light,” Laboy said. “This assignment is not only important to our profession but to our culture as a whole. As aspiring social workers, we aim to advocate for those facing social injustices, as well as empowering them to overcome them.”

Laboy, a veteran whose poster read, “Listen to the silence of our veterans,” said her poster was aimed at raising awareness about the struggle those who sacrifice for their country endure when they return home.

“There are so many things affecting veterans that nobody even speaks up for,” Laboy said. “I’m a veteran myself. To start with, the suicide rate has continued to go up. We don’t get timely care and

See **POSTERS**, Page 10

Thanking mentors

Megan Gonzalez
THE RIDER

Throughout November, the Office of Engaged Scholarship & Learning hosted its first Thank-A-Mentor Campaign. Students were asked to submit a short biography along with a picture of them and their faculty mentor.

“I really believe that this campaign offers students an opportunity to show that gratitude,” said Robert Longoria, a programs specialist for Student Academic Success. “With this campaign, we wanted to celebrate empathy. I believe that everybody has a mentor in their lives, either formal or informal, but this really offers students the opportunity to showcase people that inspired them, showcase people that believe in them. I really believe that this is a platform towards normalizing mentorship on campus.”

Social media (via Facebook and Instagram) and UTRGV Student Messenger helped the program gain attention.

“We have a lot of faculty that work with us to help provide opportunities for students, and it’s November. It’s the

month of graciousness and gratitude and it’s just an opportunity that we can give to students to pay it forward to our faculty mentors,” said Daniel Warner, a student assistant for Engaged Scholarship & Learning.

The Office of Engaged Scholarship & Learning plans to continue the campaign each November.

One of the biographies was written by political science senior Karina Guerrero.

“I would like to thank Dr. Angel Saavedra for being a great mentor. I reached out to him for feedback on a research paper I had written for his class, and I got a lot more feedback than I thought I’d ever get! He was very excited about my topic and encouraged me to look into the [Engaged Scholarship Award] program to continue my research. If it weren’t for him, I probably would have never known about this awesome opportunity to fund my research. His enthusiasm and affirmation about my ideas was humbling, and I’ve been motivated to tackle the sometimes scary process of doing research. I can’t thank him enough for his support and motivation.”



COURTESY PHOTO
Political science senior Karina Guerrero and her mentor, political science Assistant Professor Angel Saavedra.



When is the right time to play Christmas music? When should it stop?



“I think the right time to play Christmas music is right after Thanksgiving so that everyone can get in the spirit and, yeah, enjoy this season of holidays. I think it should stop right away after Christmas is over.”

Aldo Miranda
Mechanical engineering sophomore

“Yo creo que el momento para empezar a poner canciones de Navidad es la semana de Thanksgiving y dejar de poner canciones de que despuesito de Navidad porque si empiezas a poner canciones después de Navidad, como que ya pasó la moda y pues ya no tiene sentido”.



Mariana Alvarado
Biology junior



“It’s too early if it’s not December yet. I’d say it’s the right time when it hits December; it’s fair game. The day after Christmas is the stopping point.”

Scott Mercer
Computer engineering senior

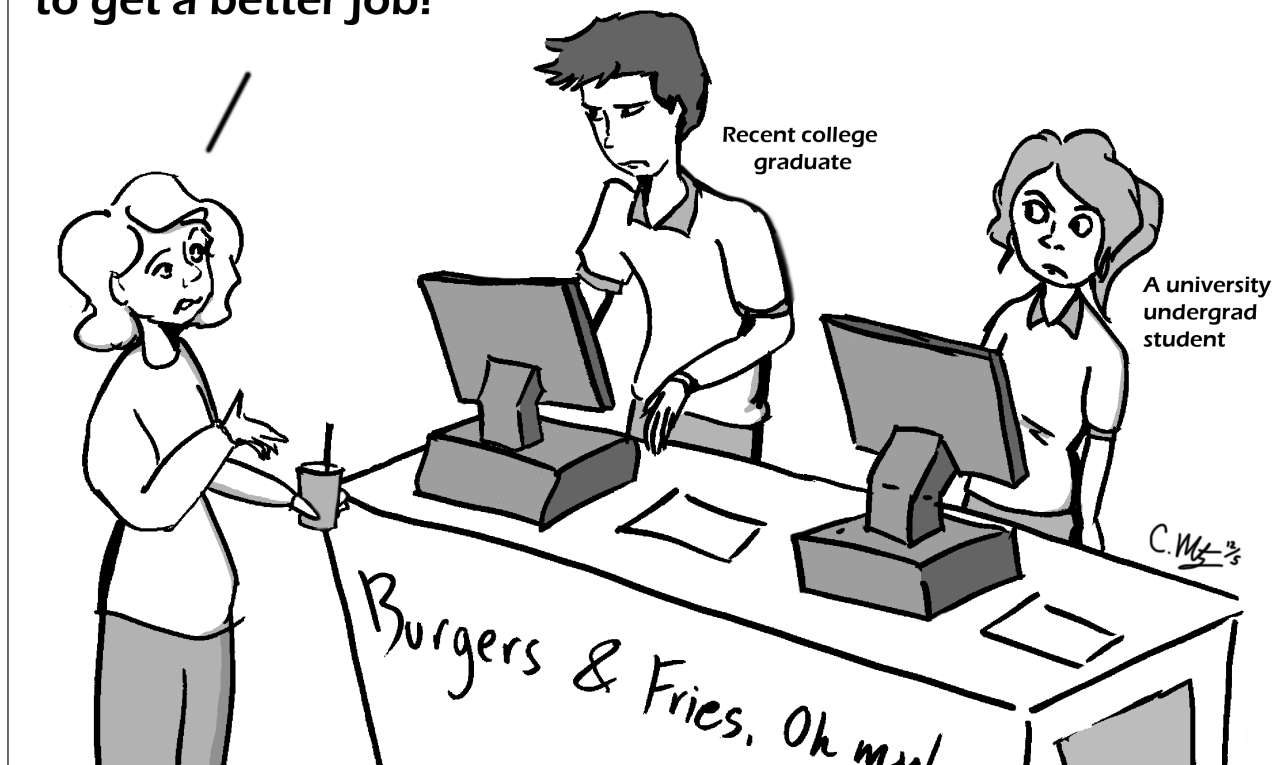
“I think the right time would be Dec. 1. I think anything before the 24th of November is too early. The 26th of December is when we should stop playing Christmas music.”



Maria Santos
Communication sophomore

--Compiled by Ana Cahuiche and Gabriel Mata

Why so glum? You know, if you went to college to get a degree, you’d be able to get a better job!



Young children and mobile entertainment



Mario Gonzalez
PHOTO EDITOR

It is quite difficult not to notice it everywhere we go; the children of today are growing up carrying big displays in their hands. This trend is present even among our family and friends. Nowadays, it is common to see young children ask their parents for their mobile phones or tablets to play games or watch videos online.

I am not criticizing any parent for giving a tablet or a mobile phone to their children to entertain them, and I am not implying that doing so is a form of irresponsible parenting, either. I am not a parent and I have no experience in raising a child, but I would like to analyze the current state of our society.

I would like to contemplate and, maybe, even reflect on the possible consequences exposing children to these devices at young ages may have on them in the future.

I understand that we live in a digital era; I grew playing video games and started using computers at a relatively young age in the '90s. Because of that, I feel comfortable using different forms of digital media in my everyday

life. People from my generation usually lean toward the digital forms of media instead of consuming many of the traditional analogue forms.

We take countless digital photos, stream all of the music we want to listen to and watch the shows we like anywhere and at any time. This behavior seems normal now, but this is a commodity that we have adapted to; we grew consuming analogue and digital media, not just one.

The children of today were, and are being, born in a digital era of instant gratification in which the analogue interaction is mostly obsolete and forgotten. For instance, give a 5-year-old child a VHS cassette tape and he will most likely have no idea what to do with it.

Because I was a '90s child, I grew up using those kinds of technologies. I knew that if I wanted to watch “Toy Story,” I would have to get the cassette tape from wherever it was stored, rewind it and hope the tape player would work properly. In my household, we didn’t have cable television until I was about 14 years old, so if I wanted to watch cartoons, there was only one channel available for that.

In retrospect, the internet of today allows us to access countless kinds of media with ease. The commodities

See **COLUMN**, Page 10

“Setting limits to the time children spend with these devices and being aware of the content they are consuming on the internet should be an important consideration.”

Letters to the Editor

Call to action in support of DREAMers



I continue to worry about what will happen to my undocumented friends and classmates once the president-elect takes office “[DREAMers’ nightmare: Where do we go now?” Nov. 28]. So many of them

have worked so hard to get where they are, and I can’t stand the thought of that being taken away from them. As a community, we must stand together to protect our undocumented population and demand their safety and fair treatment.

The situation at times feels very helpless, but that is not the case. There are concrete, meaningful actions we can take to protect our undocumented classmates. Presidents are not kings and they cannot deport 11 million people on their own. The House and Senate may be controlled by the same party, but that doesn’t mean they will vote the same way. The Senate, in particular, has a history of moderate policy, and so long as the filibuster remains intact, there is no reason this should stop. Our senators work for us, and if we want them to do the right thing on this issue, we must let them know directly. We cannot afford to wait and see what will happen—our senators need to know that the students of UTRGV stand with our undocumented classmates. They need to hear it from us, their bosses, and they need to hear it now, as they prepare for the

2017 legislative session.

Our senators each have regional South Texas offices for this very reason—to hear from constituents on a local level. Sen. Ted Cruz’s South Texas regional office can be reached at (202) 224-5922, and Sen. John Cornyn’s can be reached at (202) 224-2934. Call them and make your voice heard!

Mimosa Thomas
Biology junior

Faculty and staff stand with students

In light of the results of the recent national election, we as faculty and staff of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley stand by our diverse student body. We feel a moral responsibility to state publicly that we oppose any divisive language and acts of bigotry and racism that seem to be characteristic of this time.

We are feeling the fear of our students who find themselves in positions of vulnerability, due to their ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, nationality or religious beliefs. The words of Gloria Anzaldúa (1999) ring true as we are “barely keeping the panic below the surface of the skin, daily drinking shock with our morning coffee.”

As faculty and staff, we are here to serve as a beacon of hope to our students. We are committed to maintaining our classrooms as safe spaces for all students, where dialogue is nurtured and tolerance is practiced by caring adults who value the strengths and assets of all our

students. We are here to protect, develop and guide our community during this time. We value our students and recognize that they make us better because of their cultural wealth and translanguism.

Cynthia Saldivar
University College Program Coordinator,
Jonikka Charlton
Associate Vice President for Student Academic Success
Joan Reed
University College Lecturer
Michelle Alvarado
Assistant Vice President for Student Success
Sofia Montero
University College Lecturer
Marilyn Hagerty
University College Lecturer
Jose Saldivar
University College Lecturer
BB Gaytan
University College Lecturer
Dagoberto Ramirez
University College Lecturer
Kelly Morales
University College Lecturer
Erika Perez
University College Lecturer

Bailey: No es un buen momento para declararnos campus santuario



Foto cortesía de Yash Mori Photography

Miembros de diversas organizaciones pro-inmigrantes, familias indocumentadas y estudiantes de Texas, Florida y Nueva York se manifiestan afuera de las oficinas del Senador republicano Marco Rubio en Palm Beach, FL. En agosto del 2014.

Rebeca Ortiz
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

El presidente de UTRGV, Guy Bailey, dice que no sería bueno declarar la escuela un campus santuario en este momento.

“No hay ningún problema por el momento, de manera que tenemos posibilidad de crear uno si hacemos esa declaración”, dijo Bailey en una entrevista el miércoles. “Sé que ha habido mucha retórica negativa en la campaña, pero todas las señales que recibimos del congreso son que [una deportación masiva] no pasará Creo que nuestros DREAMers están seguros e indudablemente tienen nuestro apoyo. Creo que esta es la mejor manera de protegerlos”.

En luz de la reciente elección presidencial, nueve organizaciones estudiantiles de UTRGV unen fuerzas y han pedido a Bailey hacer la escuela una Universidad Santuario.

La meta inicial de la petición era recabar 500 firmas de estudiantes y miembros de la comunidad del Valle, se acerca ya a las 1,500 en su sitio oficial en [change.org](#).

La petición, dirigida a Bailey, fue redactada y firmada por el Consejo de Asuntos de Minorías (MAC), la Asociación Estudiantil LUCHA, el Centro de Estudios México Americanos (CMAS), el Programa de Estudios México Americanos, el Centro de Estudios Bilingües, Asociación de Estudiantes Musulmanes (MSA), la Organización Estudiantil WAKE-UP, Voto Latino y la Organización Estudiantil de Educación Bilingüe (BESO).

La petición establece que UTRGV con sus cerca de 951 estudiantes DREAMers, tiene la mayor cantidad en todo el estado de Texas. Por lo que, aunado a su cercanía con la frontera de México, dichas organizaciones piensan que la institución no debería permanecer neutral.

“Nosotros los estudiantes y facultad afiliada con el Centro de Estudios México Americanos de UTRGV, no podemos

permanecer quietos y callados durante estos tiempos impredecibles. Apoyamos a nuestros colegas y estudiantes, especialmente a los más marginados, y pedimos que la administración de nuestra Universidad se levante en solidaridad con el llamado de al menos otras 130 universidades a lo largo de la nación y declare UTRGV un campus santuario”, dice la petición, la cual se hizo pública el 17 de noviembre.

Cabe resaltar que el gobernador de Texas Greg Abbott comunicó por Twitter el jueves que “Texas no tolerará los

campus y ciudades santuario. Cortaré los fondos por cualquier campus que se establezca como campus santuario. #tcot”.

Mónica Álvarez Suarez, estudiante de maestría en estudios Méxicoamericanos y asistente de posgrado en el CMAS, dijo que están pidiendo que la administración haga una declaración pública “donde [se] ofrezca el apoyo hacia los estudiantes indocumentados, a los estudiantes de diferentes países y a otro tipo de minorías”.

En todas las comunidades de inmigrantes existe temor y zozobra. Y no es para menos, la retórica del hoy presidente electo, Donald Trump, les advirtió de desplazamiento en su estatus de permanencia en los EUA.

“Estudiantes, familiares y miembros de la comunidad se encuentran temerosos, y necesitamos que el liderazgo de la Universidad y los oficiales electos emerjan en apoyo público para todos

nuestros estudiantes. Estamos pidiendo la seguridad de que la policía del campus no cuestionará la afiliación religiosa o el estatus de inmigrante, ni permitirá que ICE cuestione el estatus migratorio de nadie. Pedimos a la universidad que haga el compromiso público de no liberar ningún récord acerca del estatus migratorio de los estudiantes y sus familiares a ICE”, dice la petición.

Adicionalmente, las organizaciones piden a la universidad abogue por la ley del Senado 1528 (anteriormente conocida como proyecto de ley 1403),

la cual permite a estudiantes no-residentes pagar una colegiatura como estatales y la posibilidad de aplicar para cierta ayuda financiera. Razón por la cual, piden a UTRGV la creación de un puesto de trabajo y un centro para estudiantes indocumentados con el único propósito de asistir a los actuales y futuros estudiantes beneficiarios de la ley del Senado 1528, “quienes necesitan apoyo en la inscripción, retención y éxito académico (incluyendo y no limitado a indocumentados, DACA y no-residentes)”, la petición dice.

Abraham Díaz Alonso, estudiante de licenciatura en estudios Méxicoamericanos e historia y miembro del consejo de Asuntos de Minorías, cree en la necesidad de establecer un centro para estudiantes indocumentados, ya que desde la secundaria hasta la universidad no hay nadie que los pueda guiar en el proceso con la información adecuada.

“No hay alguien que esté especializado

con información que nos pueda beneficiar a estudiantes como yo ... no hay una persona que te pueda ayudar con consejos legales, con consejos sobre cómo navegar el sistema general y este centro de DREAMers ayudaría mucho a todos los estudiantes, y sería un lugar abierto para poder tener pláticas y discusiones sobre diferentes temas, no nada más para estudiantes indocumentados pero para todo aquel estudiante que necesite información de cualquier tipo, también tenerlo abierto para los estudiantes que sean de nuestra comunidad de aquí en el Valle, que ellos también puedan tener la información”, dijo Díaz.

Patrick Gonzáles, vicepresidente auxiliar de comunicaciones publicitarias, dijo que “ninguna decisión se ha hecho respecto a la Universidad Santuario, pero queremos que nuestros estudiantes sepan que conforme sigamos adelante, continuaremos apoyándolos y haremos lo que esté a nuestro alcance para asegurarnos que continúen teniendo éxito como estudiantes aquí en UTRGV”.

Bailey asegura que ha seguido este asunto “muy de cerca” no ha visto nada que indique la deportación de estudiantes, por lo que planea reunirse con los estudiantes y líderes de organizaciones lo más pronto posible.

Sin embargo, los intentos por conseguir la calificación de campus santuario a lo largo del país, están siendo impulsados por estudiantes indocumentados y sectores sociales que no comulgan con la idea de una deportación masiva.

No obstante la falta de información precisa, el Centro Nacional de Leyes de Inmigración, (NILC) por sus siglas en inglés, recomienda no solicitar DACA si es por primera vez, “Debido a la incertidumbre de lo que sucederá con la DACA y los temores legítimos experimentados por las comunidades de inmigrantes, se recomienda no aplicar para DACA hasta que veamos qué pasa el año que viene bajo una administración Trump”.

“ Nosotros los estudiantes y facultad afiliada con el Centro de Estudios México Americanos de UTRGV, no podemos permanecer quietos y callados durante estos tiempos impredecibles. ”

Petición para declarar UTRGV un campus santuario



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COLUMN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

the internet and mobile devices provide us have encouraged many parents to give their children access to the net and mobile games at earlier ages.

I wonder whether this is a good idea. I understand that children like to watch cartoons and play video games in their spare time. But, when we give children, especially toddlers and younger, access to these types of media, I start to wonder if doing so could have any positive out-

LITERACY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

said. “We have classroom space. They’ll even renovate space for us, if we need it, create small clinics for us, if we need to, for medical services.”

The project is still identifying the rest of the students who will participate in the inaugural team. Those already identified are majoring in nursing, business, biology, engineering and medicine.

To sign up, students must contact and be approved by the Interprofessional Education liaison in their college and must also call the School of Medicine Office of Interprofessional Education at 665-6401.

MANNY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

luna. Siempre he tenido esa fascinación por los planetas”, el dijo.

Nonetheless, he also has plans to become a certified HVAC technician in the near future.

It’s not unusual to hear Espino talk about a wide range of topics with students.

Sebastian Wong, a political science and economics senior at UTRGV, met Espino four years ago and has been friends with him since. Wong said Espino “is very intelligent.”

“We always have conversations about religion, spirituality, life in general and we much agree in the same stuff even though he is a Christian and I’m not,” Wong said.

comes in their behavior later on.

At such a young age, many of these children have had access to the immediacy of modern technologies; it is hard not to think that they may grow having negative expectations of the real world.

What I mean by this is that because there is little effort required to access all of the media they enjoy, such as video games, movies and cartoons, they may expect the same immediacy and ease for other aspects of their lives. Again, I am not implying bad parenthood, but I have noticed a particular behavior in many

POSTERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

then we wonder why these rates go up of self-medicating and substance abuse.”

Ramirez said the peaceful protest assignment was designed to show his social work students how to relay the important message behind their chosen cause to help those in need.

“Their utilization in practice is aimed at directing attention to conditions affecting the Latinos’ lives and to legitimize conditions as problems that decision-makers can formally address in the distribution of resources in the area in order to meet unmet need,” he said.

Rene Luna, an international business sophomore, also noted the variety of topics.

“Tú llegas, saludas, y pues el tema que salga. Puede ser el clima, el espacio, la religión, política, o la violencia en México, ya que él sabe cómo ha estado la situación recientemente”, Luna dijo. “Y pues si, se habla de infinidad de cosas, como quien dice debatiendo, pero cada quien respetando su punto o concordando en cierto modo”.

Asked to describe Espino to someone who doesn’t know him, Wong replied that Espino is “very friendly, very polite, very outgoing, and someone you can rely on in terms of conversations, spiritual things, and overall a person that you can talk to, you can identify with him in terms of culture, family values and society values.”

children.

In my personal experience among some children younger than 12, I have noticed that, in fact, they are becoming “tech-savvy,” while at the same time demanding more time with mobile devices. I understand that parents give their children a tablet or smartphone to keep them entertained, but I think it is essential to teach children the importance of having to work for what they want.

Setting limits to the time children spend with these devices and being aware of the content they are consuming

Some of the posters made by the social work master’s students said, “Latinos 4 Liberty,” “Equal Pay, Equal Work” and “Say Yes to Gender Equality.”

Graduate student Steve Guerrero held a sign saying, “Immigration is legal. Illegal immigration is not.”

“I took this stance due to all the controversy of sanctuary cities, illegal immigration and deportation. Basically, we’re a nation of laws; being legal here is a law,” Guerrero said. “I’m all for peaceful protest if you have something to say. Being in the master’s program here, it’s given us the tools to basically organize successfully, going through the correct channels and peacefully organize.

Luna dijo, “Muy buen amigo, muy buena persona, muy buen motivador, excelente persona. En el poco tiempo que llevo de conocerlo, he notado que es muy amigable, muy abierto, siempre está allí para ayudarte”.

Luis Arturo Gonzalez Davila, a mechanical engineering sophomore, also said how “Espino spreads his happiness by talking with people, giving advice and supporting students to keep trying to reach our goals.”

“I’ve known him since I started using the shuttle and since then, I can tell that we are good friends and not just me. I bet there are more people that can say the same,” Gonzalez Davila said.

Daniela Venegas, a program adviser for the Office of Student Involvement, said one can count on Espino to brighten the day.

on the internet should be an important consideration.

We are days away from Christmas; consider the type of gift you would be giving to a child. Regardless of whether a tablet device can be a good gift for a young child or not, I believe it is important to teach them about the value of responsibility and having respect for the authority of their parents.

Either way, I hope this column helps you be mindful about the foundations that we are building on the next generation. From the bottom of my heart, I wish you happy holidays.

I found being in this master’s program for two years, it’s given us the tools in order to be successful in taking a stance.”

Ramirez said the profession of social work is focused on improving the community and this experience will benefit his graduate students in their respective careers.

“Within the social work profession, we have an obligation to society and our community,” he said. “Students have learned what that expectation consists of, engaging in civic-minded responsibility, giving back to the community to improve local conditions and the larger part of society.”

“You can be having a bad day and Espino is there,” Venegas said. “First thing when they open that door, you see Manny smiling; that changes your attitude.”

Espino said when he retires, he will feel accomplished knowing he had an impact on some students.

“Amo lo que hago”, Espino dijo. “Yo estoy aquí porque amo UTRGV. I love my job. Cuando me retire, estaré satisfecho y feliz porque voy a saber que esos muchachos, que yo un día hablé con ellos, que un día les di una palabra de aliento, que un día los motivé, que son grandes personas y que realizaron sus sueños. De una manera u otra, me voy a sentir realizado porque yo estuve allí con ellos”.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

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Alumni: Where are they now?

Name: Mauricio Saldaña Jr.
Age: 26
Hometown: Hidalgo
Degree: Business Administration and Marketing
Graduation year: 2014
Job: Fan engagement strategist at State Farm Arena
How would you describe your college years? “It was fun. I really did enjoy this campus. If there is one thing I always talk about is that UTRGV really does have a good business program and that was when it was still the University of Texas Pan American. So, I can only imagine the wonders that they are doing now.”
What do you miss most about college? “I miss school. I miss meeting different people and networking.”
What motivated you to pursue your degree? “I came across an adviser and initially, UTPA was offering the whole international business program, but they were killing the program. I guess not enough funds, so they told us we had to switch. So, I narrowed it down between management and marketing. And I asked one of the advisers, ‘Should you do this all over again, which route would you go?’ And he really motivated me to go towards the marketing side. The reason why was because you can learn management through training. You can get that by working in a company for an x amount of years. Now, marketing, he kind of predicted that the image or perception of a company would be a big impact through social media. And that got me. So, I told myself, I’m going to learn management through marketing regardless. But what I’m going to benefit from marketing is learning how to make whatever business I’m working for different. [I’m going to make] its perception different and bring in clients that are not being attended to or get an undiscovered market, etc., etc.”
Did your degree prepare you for the real world? “Yes and no. It’s way different. School, classes, your instructors, and your professors, everything is structured. The world isn’t. It changes. Once you graduate, be self-

aware. You need to take time. Don’t be afraid to just take a step back and kind of figure out what it is that you really want to do with your life. Figure out what your strengths are first. If you notice that you like to be in a certain environment and you feel at your best, then find a way to maneuver your way there and create a type of career out of it.”
Briefly describe what you do in your job? “So, my position is usually given towards sports venue/teams, like the NFL. The Cowboys and all of them will have fan engagement strategists. Now, something that the State Farm Arena is trying to do is trying to identify the audience here in the Rio Grande Valley. So, I have a few interns from UTRGV, who are great individuals and they are very insightful and they are bringing a lot of case studies as well. So, what I have them do is that during events, I have them go take a few surveys here and there. It’s a sample survey and we want to find out where the audience was hearing about the event. Was it from Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, etc. and comparing it to television, radio, the newspaper and believe it or not, 70 percent were hearing about the event through Facebook. And it made sense, but we never had the proof. We were able to prove that the majority of people that follow us are between the ages of 25 to 34. They are mostly from Hidalgo County, and Cameron County is second. During our Hispanic Pop events we actually have about 80 percent that come from Mexico. So, one thing that we were able to identify was that State Farm Arena has a big advantage on serving two countries at the same time, Mexico and the U.S. Now, what we are trying to do is figure out if radio serves a purpose. We are trying to figure out if Pandora, or any online music-streaming app, is a better way to go because people spend more time on their apps. So, you could say, my job title is kind of like the science behind our audience.”
Do you do something else besides your current job? “Yes, another business, actually. It’s a construction site, residential and it’s known as Villa



COURTESY PHOTO

del Sol Construction. I’m handling the marketing part of it. It’s a new construction company. We are about a year and a half into the Rio Grande marketing and we are focusing on trends for certain looks for homes. We are not just bringing in traditional. We are bringing in modern looks, whether it’s from Vegas, New Jersey, or Chicago, so kind of look out for us. From the market research that I have done, we are No. 2 on social media presence in the Valley.”
What experiences have you had that you would say are out of the ordinary since graduating? “I can’t say I have, but I feel like I’m heading that direction. I can feel like something is going to happen. I can just say that; I feel it’s coming.”
What is the most memorable moment of your career? “I’m the youngest person at the State Farm Arena

and one of the youngest at Villa del Sol. So, when these older people notice your work and they start to take you more seriously and they forget about your age, it makes you more creditable.”
What keeps you pushing forward? “Motivation is really hard. I’m not perfect. I’m motivated and then sometimes I’m not. I have a vision board. My girlfriend brought it up and she explained it to me. Even my yoga instructor told me about it. So, I looked into it. I put images together and the way I interpret is where I want to be and it helps me work towards it. I have it in my room and I look at it every night. It reminds me of where I want to be and it plays a good part into my motivation.”
What’s next, careerwise? “I don’t know, but I know where I want to be. This is where my vision board comes into play. I know what I want my life to look

See **ALUMNI**, Page 14

Club Spotlight



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Philosophy Club include Secretary and Vice President Pamela Maritas (from left), Adviser and Lecturer Anthony DeSantis, Public Relations and Vice President Juan Linares, Fundraising Chair and Vice President Victor Gonzalez, Treasurer and Vice President Reginald Jala and Co-Presidents Alfredo Ovalle and Regina Sada.
Name: The Philosophy Club
Purpose: The Philosophy Club aims to provide the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, its student body, and surrounding community with a forum for philosophical discussion and the friendly exchange of ideas.
Co-Presidents: Alfredo Ovalle and Regina Sada
Secretary/Vice President: Pamela Maritas
Treasurer/Vice President: Reginald Jala
Fundraising Chair/Vice President: Victor Gonzales
Public Relations/Vice President: Juan Linares
Adviser: Anthony DeSantis, a philosophy lecturer
Activities: We host meetings to engage in philosophical discussions regarding all types of topics, from political ideals to religion and the environment.
Meetings: 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. every other Friday in Liberal Arts Building North 101
Membership requirements: \$10 membership fee (good for two semesters)
For more information, email: Philclub.utrgv@gmail.com
--Compiled by Lesley Robles

What should I major in?

Throughout this academic year, The Rider will explore the programs of study at UTRGV. This is the sixth in a series. The Rider interviewed Joseph Hovey, Psychological Science Department Chair, for information.
Major: Psychology
School: College of Liberal Arts
Department Chair: Joseph Hovey
Prerequisites: None
Total credit hours needed to graduate: 120
What is psychology? “It is the scientific study of human behavior. Compared to a history or other humanity-type courses where the field may strive to understand behavior, they may not use the same scientific methods that psychologists use.”
Which classes can students expect to take? “All the students would take what are called core classes, which are those that would provide a core foundation for more specialized-type courses, so everyone who is a [psychology] major would have to take intro to psychology called General Psychology. That goes over, in a brief way, in all the different fields of psychology. Then, students would have to take a core course to go over these areas like Social Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Theories of Learning, Physiological Psychology, which at some universities is also called Biological Psychology that studies the brain and behavior, Cognitive Processes and Abnormal Psychology. So, students have to take five of those six classes, which provide a really good foundation. In addition, they would have to have scientific courses like statistics and research methods. Most of these classes are required to go on to graduate school. After they take all these core courses, they would have to take five more courses that are electives, so whatever interests them in the field of psychology they can load

up on credit hours in those areas. These are divided into, for example, other developmental courses, other cognitive or physiological courses, other applied courses like Clinical and Counseling Psychology.
What skills will students learn by the time they graduate? “Two things. One of them is you’ll have a really good solid background in science. In addition to the [statistics and research methods] classes I mentioned earlier, the students will be able to take other methodological courses if they desire. Everything that students learn in any psychology class is based on science, whether it’s an estimate of how many people have a certain disorder or a developmental course, it’s all based on science and studies that have been done in the past. Secondly, students learn a lot about human behavior and how to get along and understand other people’s behavior, motivation and how they think. So, quite often when someone has a psychology degree, not only are they understanding things in a very scientific way, but they are able to understand and get along with other people.”
What are some possible careers? “Ideally, if someone is really interested in psychology, they would pursue their education in grad school. So, if someone goes to grad school, I think the stereotype is that people who have masters or Ph.D.s are clinical psychologists, which is kind of what you see in the media. That would be someone who can work as a therapist, a teacher or can get a job as a researcher. If they get a job as a teacher or researcher, they will be in sort of a

See **MAJOR**, Page 10

Diving deep into research



PHOTO COURTESY SETH PATTERSON

Troy McWhorter, a biology graduate, conducts a sampling session to monitor the development of the estuarine (fish and invertebrates) community in the re-flooded Bahia Grande.

Andrea Torres
THE RIDER

In the next couple of months, marine biology junior Cassandra Rodriguez will begin her journey as a research assistant.

“All my life it was something that always interested me,” Rodriguez said. “I’ve always been interested in learning new things about any kind of species, not just necessarily marine life but, like, land life as well.”

Rodriguez previously was a biology major with a concentration in pre-medicine, but she did not feel a passion for it.

“I realize that the ocean is vast, it’s enormous and there’s still so much to learn a lot from it,” she said. “There’s so many unknown and that really sparked an interest.”

Her future assistantship is funded by a \$15.4 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-

tion shared by UTRGV and five other universities.

Rodriguez said she still does not know what kind of research she will be in-

“I’ve always been interested in learning new things about any kind of species, not just necessarily marine life but, like, land life as well.”

Cassandra Rodriguez
Marine Biology Junior

involved in but will work with David Hicks, a professor and director of the School of

Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences, to decide in the upcoming weeks.

The Center for Coastal and Marine Ecosystems grant trains minority students in NOAA-related fields, Hicks said. The grant is led by Florida A&M University in Tallahassee. Also sharing the grant are Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Fla., California State University in Monterey Bay, Jackson State University in Mississippi and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

UTRGV will receive a total of \$2,268,422 from the grant over five years.

“The nice thing about it is, as far as the research projects, it’s almost wide open, as long as the research project has some relevance to the goals of NOAA,” Hicks said.

Working with Hicks as co-principal investigators are Associate Professors Carlos Cintra and John Breier, Assistant Professor Alejandro Cabo and political science Assistant Professor Owen Temby.

Research projects can fall under three NOAA priorities: place-based conserva-

“[Placed-based conservation] encompasses research that’s focused on improving specific locations,” Breier said. “That approach is supposed to take both the specifics of the location, the actual science of the location, plus the goals of the community in mind to work together.”

Coastal intelligence relates to the gathering of data in research and how that data can be used for projects, he explained.

Hicks said coastal resilience is “how coastal communities can plan to quickly rebound economically and, for example, from events that happen on the coast.”

This research can help in the early detection these events, such as hurricanes.

The School of Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences is recruiting students to participate in the research.

“We have six graduate student positions funded per year and five undergraduate positions granted per year,” Hicks said. “We’d like to get the [graduate] students done in two years, but NOAA will allow us to continue them to three. ... I think the undergraduate is for four years, but we plan to recruit them as juniors and seniors.”

Graduate students receive a stipend of \$16,500 per year, a scholarship of \$6,520 per year, and \$1,980 for travel expenses. They have access to an additional \$5,000 per year to visit a NOAA research facility and work with NOAA scientists.

Each undergraduate is given a stipend of \$7,700 per year, a scholarship of \$2,860 per year and \$1,440 for travel and research supplies.

Preference is given to marine biology majors, but all majors are encouraged to apply for the research grant opportunity. For more information, email Hicks at david.hicks@utrgv.edu.

tion, coastal resilience and coastal intelligence.

Environment in the spotlight

Andrea Torres
THE RIDER

About 130 volunteers walked from the south side of the jetties to Clayton’s Beach Bar on South Padre Island on Nov. 28 to pick up more than 700 pounds of trash on the shore.

The marine debris is one of two problems presented by Kat Lillie, education director for Sea Turtle Inc., as the reason why sea turtles have washed ashore injured or dead.

“Another big problem we have is with fishing lines, fishing nets, things like that,” Lillie said. “Incidental capture, which basically means that you didn’t mean to catch the turtle, but you caught the turtle.”

Sea Turtle Inc. is located on the Island and its mission is to rehabilitate and conserve different species of sea turtles and educate the public about their importance to the environment, she said.

Lillie’s presentation was part of the 2016 Environmental Studies Symposium, hosted by the UTRGV Environmental Studies Program last Tuesday in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus. The event was also held Nov. 22 in Edinburg. More than 60 people attended both events.

“We’re trying to highlight what both the university and the local community with respective things like the environmental humanities,” said Amy Hay, director for the environmental studies program and history associate professor.

Among the Brownsville attendees was Samantha Buentello, a biology sophomore.

“I’m interested in the environment and, kind of, to know more about how to help it,” Buentello said about why she attended the event. “My older cousin graduated with an environmental [studies bachelor’s]. ... She works with the community and she always tells me to go



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER PHOTO

Kat Lillie, education director and assistant coordinator for Sea Turtle Inc. at South Padre Island, talks to environmental science sophomore Sabas Lopez III about volunteer opportunities during the 2016 annual Environmental Studies Symposium held last Tuesday on the Brownsville campus.

to those events where they talk about the environment.”

A group of students from the Introduction to Environmental Studies course spoke about the arrival of liquefied natural gas companies to the Port of Brownsville and control of the pet population in the Rio Grande Valley.

“Purrpaws found that we really need to help our animals,” said Michelle Garcia, an education junior and member of the organization. “A lot of cases, down here in the Rio Grande Valley, we’ll find abandoned animals and we want to help them.”

Purrpaws hosted information sessions during Brownsville Cyclobia. The group also went to local elementary and middle schools to educate children about pet care, such as vaccines and proper food for animals.

Other presentations given in the symposium included:

--“Ocean Ecological Forecasting: Advancing Ocean Intelligence to Mitigate Environmental Uncertainty,” by John Breier, an associate professor for the School of Earth, Environment and Marine Science;

--“Local Justice in Environmental

Studies,” by philosophy Assistant Professor Ian Werkheiser;

--“Hypoxia and Environmental Chemicals in Marine Ecosystems,” by biology Assistant Professor MD Rahman;

--“A Report to the Consumer: Ida Honorofo and the Campaign Against Toxic Chemicals,” by Hay; and

--“Climate Change and Children’s Health,” by Michelle Zeager, a clinical pediatrics assistant professor in the UTRGV School of Medicine.

For more information about the environmental studies program, email Hay at amy.hay@utrgv.edu or esp@utrgv.edu.

UTRGV students honor Cervantes

Two multilingual plays to be performed in Brownsville this weekend



OSCAR CASTILLO/THE RIDER

Graduate Spanish students Eréndira Santillana and Avisteo Tovar rehearse for the play “*El Retablo de las Maravillas*,” last Wednesday night in Main on the Brownsville campus.

Oscar Castillo
NEWS EDITOR

Four hundred years after his death, Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes continues to inspire people through his literary work. This weekend, the Multilingual Drama Club at UTRGV will present “A Cervantes Celebration.”

Cervantes, who died on April 22, 1616, in Madrid, is most commonly known for his novel “Don Quixote,” which was written in 1605. Part two was published a year before his death.

In honor of the 400th anniversary of his death, two plays will be performed in Brownsville.

“[This] weekend we’ll be having plays that really celebrate the acquisition of languages,” said Suzanne LaLonde,

associate chair of Literature & Cultural Studies. “So, it’s a celebration of bilingualism; it’s a celebration of trilingualism. It’s just a celebration of being bicultural, biliterate, bilingual, but also, you know, being multicultural.”

LaLonde said she wrote the play “Don Quixote Lost and Found in Translation,” in English, Spanish and French. Students in the undergraduate courses Advanced French Grammar and Composition I and II will perform the play, which is about his global adventures.

“It is about Don Quixote, mainly,” said English and French senior Berenice Sainz. “It’s like an abstract of the two parts that’s like the story in general and it basically keeps the essence of the story, but See **CERVANTES**, Page 14

Students to present ‘*Perspectiva Femenina*’

Monika Garza
THE RIDER

UTRGV seniors Brenda Perez, Clarissa Martinez and Rosa M. Garza will present an art exhibit, “*Perspectiva Femenina*,” from 6 to 8 tonight in the Art Gallery at Rusteberg Hall in Brownsville.

The exhibit focuses on the artists’ perspectives about feminism and social issues.

“We each have our own separate theme for our artworks, but I think together it is just us displaying our own perspectives on things,” Martinez said. “One is doing photography; that is her perspective on something. I am doing a lot of paintings; that is my way of perceiving some things. And, Brenda is doing sculptures, and that is her way of showing the way she looks at things.”

Perez said her works are inspired by the works of different Japanese artists.

“I would see a lot of Japanese artists, and then I would see the techniques, mainly like how they did their stuff and that is how I incorporated my art with them,” Perez said. “I am



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Arnold Escamilla (from left), Josie Del Castillo and Martha Beatriz Ortiz give an emotional speech in remembrance of artist and UTRGV Professor Carlos G. Gómez during the opening reception for their senior art exhibit, “JAM,” Nov. 28 at the Art Gallery at Rusteberg Hall in Brownsville. Gómez died of brain cancer Jan. 21.

working a lot with clay. I am making more sculptures, like hand building, doing a little bit of throwing and making sculptures out of that. I did work only in one painting.”

Martinez’s work focuses on social issues that women face

throughout their lives.

“My artwork is about social issues, particularly about women and what we go through in society and the negative effects and the emotional effects after something bad has happened to us, but I am depicting these

emotions and my own anxiety and fears through surrealism and metaphorical images,” she said.

Garza said her works are inspired by a photo that she took last semester for her photography class of

mannequins on display at a store in downtown Brownsville.

“My project is called ‘*Reflección Inesperada*’ and I am using photographs to build it,” Garza said in Spanish. “These are photographs that I take of windows’ reflections while I am walking down a street.”

The seniors used clay, wood, oils and different materials to complete their works.

“A lot of what I am doing is mixed media, so I am using oil paint and acrylic paint and working with a lot more texture,” Martinez said. “Actually, for a big piece, I used a lot of sponges, house paint and newspaper articles. That was the most challenging piece and it is the biggest piece because I never really have done that before.”

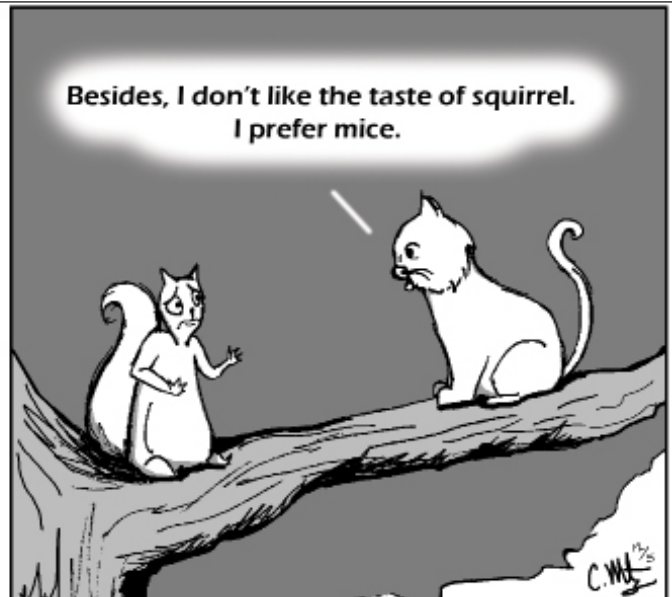
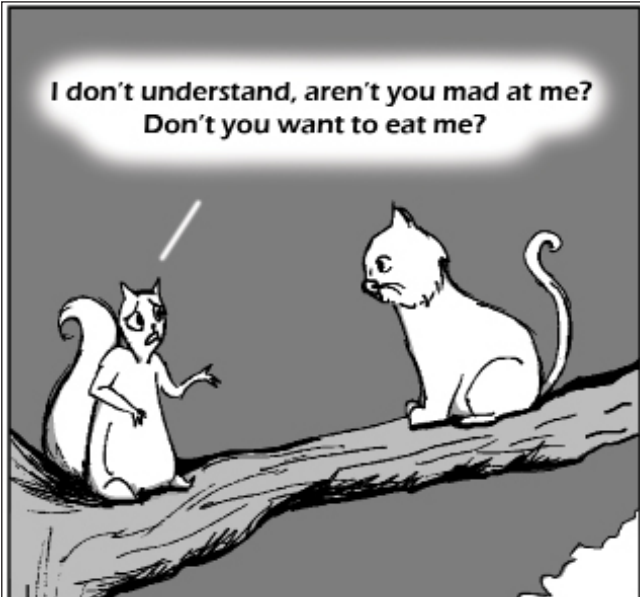
Admission is free and open to the public.

On Nov. 28, more than 100 people attended the opening reception for “JAM,” the second senior art exhibit at the gallery this semester, featuring the works of UTRGV seniors Martha Ortiz, Josie Del Castillo and Arnold Escamilla.

See **PERSPECTIVA**, Page 14

Ride Along

By Clarissa Martinez



14		December 5, 2016 THE RIDER	
GRADUATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 a.m. ceremony.” UTRGV President Guy Bailey will speak at the ceremonies. However, no distinguished alumni will be recognized		this semester, Gonzales said. The University Bell, a part of legacy institution University of Texas at Brownsville, will be rung at all UTRGV commencement ceremonies. The bell was purchased in 2011 to mark UTB’s 20th anniversary as an autonomous	
CERVANTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13 has a different take in it because it is called lost in translation, so it goes into like Spanish, English and makes the confusion there. ... It’s more comedy but keeps the drama in.” Sainz will fill the role of Antonia, Don Quixote’s niece. Associate Professor Karen Benavente’s graduate course students in Poetry and Drama will perform “ <i>El Retablo de las Maravillas</i> ,” a one-act play or an <i>entremés</i> . “ <i>Enremés</i> is really what we would call today an interlude or kind of a commercial break between plays, which is what he was writing during that time period,” Benavente said. “They’re very		short plays that make us think about the extent of all the productions that were just being performed. Primarily, with Lope de Vega, and they’re kind of like critical responses to the playwrights during that time period.” Eréndira Santillana, who plays Chirinos, said they chose this <i>entremés</i> because of its social commentary. “It’s basically criticizing the system and perhaps the government during [the] Golden Age Spanish era,” Santillana said. “The humor and the irony that Cervantes portrays in his <i>entremés</i> is quite related to us in the Hispanic world because we still live among that reality. It’s called in Spanish, <i>la palanca</i> . If you know somebody, you’re more able to obtain a higher position.” Environmental science and French	

MAJOR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11 college or university setting. However, there are lots of other types, such as social psychologists, who study group behavior; developmental psychologists, who study how people develop over time. There’s a new field called industrial psychology, in which one understands workplace behavior. Those psychologists don’t provide treatment like clinical psychologists do, they specialize in other ways and most of them will end up working in either teaching or research-type settings. Not everyone goes on to grad school, so sometimes people wonder what they can do with a bachelor’s degree in psychology. Sometimes people use this degree as a way to get a well-rounded education that will set you up		for another field such as law. Some get a minor in biology or chemistry and go on to medical school. [Many times] people go to business school and part of the reason for that is lots of industrial organization psychologists get their degree there because you’re dealing with the workplace. Sometimes people can work as an entry-level counselor with a bachelor’s degree if there is someone with an upper-level degree who supervises their work. Some people take their strong background in sciences and go off and do data analysis or research work for companies or organizations. There are many things you can do with a psychology degree. I think people tend to think that all they can do is go to grad school, but it really gives you a broad background of human behavior. Who are some possible employers? “University settings, research settings,	
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ALUMNI CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11 like and I know what I want to be doing. When I envision myself successful, I see myself looking down my window of a skyscraper into the city. I don’t know if it’s going to be here; in fact, it can be anywhere. But, that is what I envision. So, I don’t know where that is going to take me or what line of work I’ll end up at. I just know that right now, and I’m going to hustle because that is the key. So, I’m going to work to get to that goal.” What advice do you have for anyone pursuing your degree? “After you graduate, don’t go after your master’s real quick. I don’t have my master’s. Nowadays, it was rare that they looked at my résumé. They might have looked at it, but in my interviews they never talked about how I did in school or my GPA or you took these classes. No, it was more about ‘Who are you as a person?’ What skills are you going to		bring to my company? And I felt that whether you had your master’s, one thing they always asked was, ‘Do you have any experience?’ So, try to get experience in marketing. Try to get as much experience as possible. Also, there is a difference between branding and marketing. They are very different, so make sure you know the difference. Another thing, always network and get rid of people who are poison. Don’t hang around people who are in the ‘party phase.’ I noticed once I got out of that group and I started hanging out with like-minded people, I could start to see the difference. Hang out where you know these types of individuals will hang out. Are they going to be Friday or Saturday night at the club or are they going to be at Barnes & Noble? Also, engage with your professors after class because the only way you’re going to see something different is by doing something different.” -- <i>Compiled by Brenda Garza</i>	
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TEXTBOOK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3 the American system [and] our system,” Carmona said. In a preliminary hearing held in September, the first findings of factual errors were reported and Momentum Instruction was given a chance to revise the errors and resubmit the textbook.		“We were reviewing the publisher’s responses to our initial findings of errors,” said Emilio Zamora, a University of Texas at Austin history professor, member of the ad hoc committee and coordinator for the second review. “We found well over 400 errors during the second review of the responses through our findings of error. It was at a 48 percent error rate during the second review.” A second ad hoc committee report, written by Zamora, noted the error rate increase and was presented to Cortez on Nov. 15. <i>The Rider</i> requested an interview with Dunbar, but she did not reply. For the 2018 Proclamation, the board asked authors and publishers to submit books related to Mexican American studies for the next academic year. A letter of intent must be submitted by Jan.	
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27.
Zamora is co-writing a textbook for this proclamation with Andres Tijerina, a history professor at Austin Community College.
“Three other authors are joining us; we haven’t selected them yet,” Zamora said. “It’ll be a history of Mexican Americans in Texas and it’ll have a supplement that will focus on historical figures and events in the history of Texas.”

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Welcoming December with a jazz night



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Meagan Contreras sings “And the Angels Sing” with the UTRGV Jazz Orchestra last Thursday at the Texas Southmost Collge Arts Center in Brownsville. The jazz concert was part of the Student Ensemble Series hosted by the Patron of the Arts program.



The UTRGV Jazz Orchestra performs during the Student Ensemble Series last Thursday in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville.

HOODING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In 2007, the University of Texas Pan American started this ceremony when the department wanted to connect families and the community with the graduates’ accomplishments. It soon became a

tradition that transitioned to UTRGV. “We just really like it because our programs are online, and we have students from across the country and across the world, so sometimes this is the first time that faculty would actually meet the students face to face,” said John Lowdermilk, chair of Human Development and School Services.

In 2015, more than 450 people attended the ceremony. Now, 500 to 600 people are expected, including members of student organizations who are invited to the event. “They bring their kids, so if they see their family getting hooded, it helps them get encouraged to continue their education,” said Johnny Salinas, Human

Development and School Services administrative assistant. The department hopes this will encourage more hooding ceremonies for graduate students across the university. Refreshments will be served at the end of the ceremony. The event is open to the community.

SANCTUARY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sanctuary status. #tcot.” Monica Alvarez Suarez, a graduate student in Mexican American studies and graduate assistant in the Center for Mexican American Studies, said the groups are asking the administration to make a public statement in which “they offer support to the undocumented students, to the students from different countries and other type of minorities.” Fear and anxiety linger in every immigrant community, and not without reason. The campaign rhetoric of President-elect Donald Trump warned them of displacement in their status in the U.S. “Students, families and community members are fearful, and we need university leadership and locally elected officials to emerge in public support of all of our students. We are asking for assurance that campus police will not question anyone’s religious affiliation or immigration status, nor allow ICE to question anyone’s immigration status. We ask the university to make a public commitment to not release any records regarding the immigration status of students and their family members to ICE,” the petition states. Moreover, the organizations ask the university to advocate for Senate Bill 1528 (formerly known as House Bill 1403), which allows nonresident students access to in-state tuition rates at Texas public institutions of higher education and a variety of forms of state financial aid. For this reason, they ask that UTRGV create a staff position and a center for undocumented students to assist Senate Bill 1528 students and future students “who need support in enrollment, retention, and success (including and not limited to undocumented, DACA recipients, and non-citizens),” the petition states. Abraham Diaz Alonso, a Mexican American studies and history major and member of the Minority Affairs Council,

believes there is a need to establish a DREAMer center because it is difficult to navigate the system, given the fact that from middle school to college there is no one to guide them in the process with the right information. “There is nobody that is specialized in information that could benefit students like me. ... There is not a single person that could help you out with legal advice, with advice in how to navigate the general system, and this DREAMers center could be of great help to all the students and would be an open space to discuss different subjects, not only for the undocumented students, but for every student that is in need of information of any kind. Also, to have it open for the students of the Valley community, so they can have access to the information as well,” Diaz said. Patrick Gonzales, assistant vice president for Marketing and Communications, said, “No decision has been made regarding the sanctuary university, but we want our students to know that as we move forward, we will continue to support them and do what we can to make sure they continue to have success as a student here at UTRGV.” Bailey said he has been following the issue “very closely” and has seen no indicators of student deportation, which is why he is planning to meet with students and organization leaders as soon as he can. However, the effort to achieve the declaration of sanctuary campus across the nation is being fueled by not only undocumented students but also other social sectors that are not in favor of mass deportation. Despite the lack of precise information, the National Immigration Law Center recommends not to apply for DACA if it is the first time “due to the uncertainty of what will happen with DACA and the legitimate fears experienced by immigrant communities, we recommend not applying for DACA until we see what happens next year under a Trump administration.”



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11AM-2PM

SUNDAY BRUNCH
11AM-2PM

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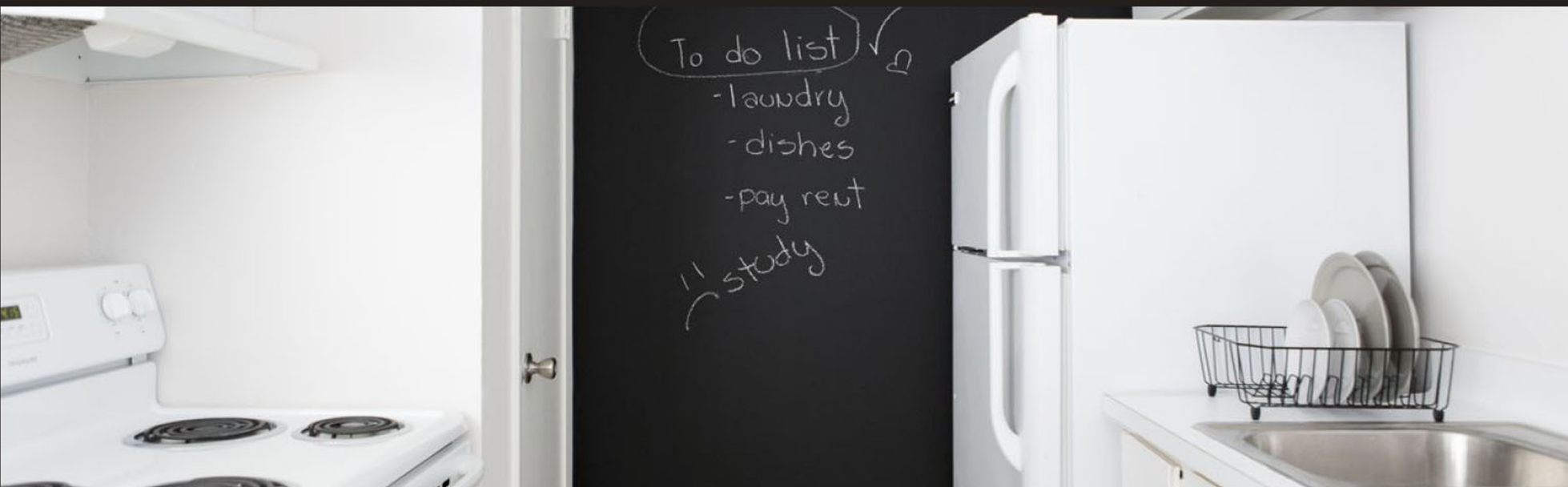
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