

New year, new issues

2 courses with same number = no credit

Oscar Castillo
THE RIDER

UT Rio Grande Valley's first semester ended last month, but not without a few hiccups because once grades were posted, some students noticed that they didn't get credit for certain courses.

Communication senior Sylvia Rendon said that although she received an A in a course, her academic record showed zero credit hours completed for that class.

"My credit hours did not show up for one class because both that class, [Writing for Mass Media] and [Communication Law and Ethics], that I took in Spring 2014, had the same course number," Rendon said. "So, it was giving me credit for law and ethics, but not writing for mass media."

Debbie Gilchrist, interim registrar and undergraduate admissions director, said that fixing this issue has a lot of ramifications.

"We're looking at a lot of scenarios, but we don't have a solution to it yet," Gilchrist said. "But, it is high priority on our list to try and figure out how to



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

UTRGV Financial Aid Mentor Ana Estrada directs business sophomore David Gonzalez to assistance at the U Central office Jan. 7 in Brownsville.

take care of this issue."

She said about 200 courses had the same course number as others in the UTRGV legacy institutions, UT Brownsville and UT Pan American. Therefore, some students who took a UTRGV course that had the same course number in either UTB or UTPA did not receive credit.

"We kind of entered new territory with creating UTRGV," Gilchrist said. "It's not that things were overlooked, it's just that we didn't know; and now that we know that this caused an issue, we're trying to find a solution."

Rosa Peña, Office of the Deputy Provost senior program coordinator, said the course numbers were decided by faculty members from both UTB and UTPA before the consolidation.

"Both campuses at that point, both departments, they worked together," Peña said. "They reviewed what was offered at UTPA back then, they reviewed what was offered at UTB, and then they worked together to have only one course inventory."

See CREDITS, Page 2

Deadline nears for voter registration

Deputy registrar training on campus this week

Tuesday, March 1

2016 Primary Election

43

DAYS LEFT

Feb 1	Last day to register	Feb 16	Early voting begins	Feb 26	Early voting ends
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MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Trisha Maldonado
THE RIDER

Feb. 1 is the last day to register to vote for the March 1 primary election, when Texas voters will select their party's nominees for the presidential and local county races.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is partnering with the Texas Freedom Network and the elections offices of

Cameron and Hidalgo counties to conduct deputy registrar training this week.

Volunteer deputy registrars may distribute and accept voter registration application forms from any resident of their respective county.

In Edinburg, the training will take place from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Bronco

See VOTING, Page 10

The campus passage

More shuttle trips available

Ena Capucion
NEWS EDITOR

Of the 25,000 students attending UTRGV, 15,000 use the shuttle system. This spring, Parking and Transportation Services is adding more Vaquero Express Campus Connector trips.

At the end of the fall semester, a transportation survey was emailed to UTRGV affiliates and about 1,800 students and staff participated.

Rodney Gomez, UTRGV director of Parking and Transportation, said the biggest issue among the student body was the lack of transport across campuses between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. due to a shortage of staff. This would require students and staff to take the early morning route between either of the two campuses and return later in the afternoon.

"Since then, we've been able to hire several part-time drivers," Gomez said. "We've actually got two students who



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

One of the 11 UTRGV shuttles is parked outside the visitors center on the Edinburg campus, ready to transport students, faculty and staff.

are in the process of getting their license. We're training them [and] teaching them. Hopefully, they should be good to go in the next couple of weeks to provide additional support. So, now that we have that, we can provide [four services] during that gap."

The four new shuttles will

depart at 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. from each campus.

UTRGV student Luis Flores will commute twice a week from Brownsville to Edinburg this semester. The Campus Connector will be his only

See SHUTTLE, Page 2
















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UTRGV enrollment declines

Officials say about 25,000 have registered for classes

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley will start the Spring 2016 semester with 25,400 students, an 11 percent decrease from its inaugural semester, preliminary figures show.

Magdalena “Maggie” Hinojosa, UTRGV associate vice president for student enrollment, said the enrollment for spring will always be less than in the fall.

“For the spring semester, there’s a couple of things that are important to know,” Hinojosa said. “Entering freshmen is a very small population. We don’t have a lot of students who graduate from high school. ... In general, your spring semester is always smaller than your fall semester, at about 8 percent or so.”

As of Thursday, the count was at 25,400, compared with 28,584 last fall, according to the enrollment reports posted on the my.utrgv.edu/student-enrollment/reports/ website.

“Typically, there’s not a set enrollment goal for spring because you always know your enrollment is going to be a little different,” Hinojosa said. “What you’re wanting to look at is how many students do we retain and you want to look at that, specifically, in their different sets of categories.”

As of Thursday, there were 22,072 undergraduate and 3,328 graduate students registered for the Spring 2016 semester.

UTRGV President Guy Bailey said the university’s enrollment goal is to



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

UTRGV students form a line to pay tuition Jan. 11 at The Tower on Main in Brownsville while others are seated, waiting to speak with a representative for other services. Some had to wait more than an hour to get called to resolve their issues.

be within 10 percent less than the fall semester.

“Spring is always smaller,” Bailey said. “Every spring is usually somewhere between 5 or 10 percent smaller. ... The reason is we graduated 2,500 students in December. Remember, most students

start in August. ... We graduated almost 10 percent of our student body.”

Among those who registered for classes this spring was occupational therapy junior Justin Regino, who signed up for 13 semester credit hours.

Regino said he had difficulties

registering for a lab.

“I got through getting rid of one,” he said. “We had to sign up for lab and lecture separately. That was trouble because I had signed up for lab but not

See ENROLL, Page 10

Make it rain

Largest scholarship gift in university’s history



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Janet Ogden Vackar, co-owner of Bert Ogden Auto Group, explains the history of Bert Ogden at the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus Jan. 12. Vackar and her husband, Robert, donated more than \$2 million to UT Rio Grande Valley for scholarships.

Ena Capucion
NEWS EDITOR

Bert Ogden Auto Group has presented UT Rio Grande Valley with more than \$2 million to endow scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students.

UTRGV President Guy Bailey called the donation a seminal event in the university’s history during the ceremony held Jan. 12 at the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg Campus. Bailey introduced the owners of Bert Ogden Auto Group, Robert “Bob” and Janet Vackar, as the donors.

One million dollars will go to the College of Business and Entrepreneurship, also known as the Robert C. Vackar Endowed Scholarship for Aspiring Entrepreneurs. Another \$1 million will go to students pursuing a degree in mass communication in the College of Liberal

Arts, also referred to as the Janet Ogden Vackar Spirit of Philanthropy Endowed Scholarship.

An additional \$80,000 will go to the already existing Susan Lewis Vackar Clark Memorial Scholarship.

“An endowed scholarship of this magnitude means that students will forever benefit from the generosity of the Vackar family,” Bailey said. “These scholarships [will] remain at the university in perpetuity.”

Mark Kroll, dean of the College of Business and Entrepreneurship, believes the money will help keep the best students in the Rio Grande Valley rather than going elsewhere.

“This money will hopefully, to a certain extent, alleviate the need for [students] to work while they’re going to school,”

See SCHOLARSHIP, Page 10

Now serving!

Brownsville Student Union debuts two new restaurants



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Subconnection and The Grille @UTRGV are new restaurants located on the UT Rio Grande Valley Brownsville campus. The Grille @ UTRGV will offer breakfast tacos and burgers, and Subconnection will sell sandwiches.

Felipe Zamorano
THE RIDER

As the new semester begins, two new food concessions open Tuesday in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus.

“It’s actually two different concepts,” said Roberto Cantu, the executive director of Campus Auxiliary Services. “The first one will be The Grille @ UTRGV and the other one will be Subconnection.”

The restaurants’ opening, scheduled last semester, was delayed for several reasons, Cantu said.

“Constructionwise, it took a little bit longer, the projects were complex,” he said. “We [also] had some delays in the restaurant equipment. The manufacturers didn’t have some of the

pieces of equipment that we needed, so those were not sent out in time.”

During UTRGV’s initial semester, the Student Government Association asked students about campus concerns and received negative comments regarding food services on the Brownsville campus.

“We had our Campus Life Committee chair and other students gather information during our tablings and town halls,” said Denisse Molina, SGA vice president for the Brownsville campus. “Students expressed their experience with the current restaurant, The Grid, and talked about prices, food availability and options.”

The lack of warm food and food options were the main concerns in the negative

See RESTAURANT, Page 6

Campus Q & A

Do you have any advice for incoming Vaqueros?



Julie Madrigal,
master of public policy and management graduate student

“Yes, I recommend for incoming Vaqueros to get to know their instructors, and go ahead and meet with them when they have a chance prior to class or during the semester because that’s really helpful for them. Getting on board and what not and also if there’s any orientations or tours for them to go ahead and go to those orientations and get to know the campuses.”



Raul Martinez,
sociology senior

“Right now, my advice would be to truly focus on being a full-time student instead of trying to get a full-time job. Really dedicate yourself to school at this point.”



Edward Hodgson,
rehabilitation services senior

“My advice for them would be to prioritize. That would be the best advice I could give because if you allow too many things consume your time, it’s going to make it that much more difficult to succeed in the classroom. Make sure you know what it is that’s most important to you; that way, you can focus on that. If getting a degree and being successful in your field is what you want to do, then that is what you need to focus most of your time on.”



Melissa Martinez,
estudiante de último año en educación

“El consejo que les puedo recomendar es que cuando agarren el syllabus y vean las horas de oficina de los profesores que vayan. Es importante que vayan a ver al profesor porque ayuda demasiado.”

--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza and Lesley Robles



Andy de Llano
COPY EDITOR

Concern for the afterlife is as old as civilization itself; what happens to us when we die? Countless religions have answered the question and many claim that these answers are the only thing lacking in modern day science.

But science *does* explain what happens to us after death and, moreover, it gives us the reasoning behind why we must all eventually perish.

We’re all familiar with the food chain. Grass absorbs energy from the sun, a cow grazes on that grass, then humans use the cow’s milk or kill it and ship its meat to the local McDonald’s or grocery store. We eat, the cow eats, the grass grows and none of this would work if any one of us had everlasting life.

Why we must die

Science can show us the meaning of life and death

The food chain cannot end with humans. However long we live, whether it’s 30 times as long as an ant will live or half as long as a Galapagos Tortoise, we all end and return to the food chain. According to Scientific American, while we’re living we’re filled with “bacterial colonies from our skin to the deepest recesses of our guts” which continue living after our death, eating the dying tissue and slowly breaking down our bodies. We all know about decomposition, but how often have you thought of the small ecosystem of creatures that thrive on your death? It may sound macabre, but one human being benefits from the deaths of hundreds of animals and plants within just one year of a long lifetime. Most living organisms on earth live and thrive in this way. We all have to eat, right?

The law of conservation of energy states that energy in a closed system is constant. If we were to consider our entire planet a closed system, then we could consider the consumption of living organisms a simple method for energy and matter to transform itself from one form to another. Is a rabbit really gone when it’s been eaten by a snake? Or has its energy been transformed into the fuel that, as the snake grows and sheds its

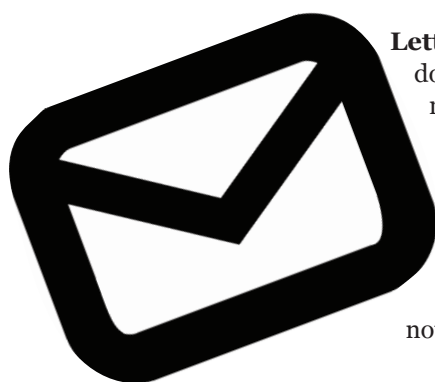
skin, is re-born into a new organism? The snake is still a snake, but every time it grows a new skin it is not the same snake it once was.

In a similar form a human’s skin is renewed every month. Skin cells die one by one, being replaced by new cells, until the newest cell that was “born” at the beginning of a given month dies and falls off by the end of the month. The same process of cell death and renewal happens throughout our entire bodies, so that every living cell that is currently in your body will be long dead 10 years from now.

Technically speaking, the you of 10 years into the future will be a collection of cells that are all the grand and great grandchildren of your current system of cells. All of these cells are fueled by the energy you consume every day. Through the death of all that you eat, your cycle of life is continuously born.

What will be the point of all that work if you eventually die anyway? If you’re searching for meaning on the individual level, science may not have the answers you want to hear, but as a collective every single death has meaning. It contributes to the lives of all the creatures on Earth that continue after you’re gone and allows new life to continually be born.

Submit a Letter to the Editor



Letters policy: *The Rider* encourages letters but does not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to edit for grammar and content. Letters for *The Rider* may be sent to utrgvtherider@gmail.com. All letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of the author. Opinions expressed in *The Rider* are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Rider* or UTRGV administrators.



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Charter class to be revealed soon

UTRGV School of Medicine to present inaugural students in early February

Andrea Torres
THE RIDER

UT Rio Grande Valley's School of Medicine has until Thursday to review and rank 250 interviewees and submit the list to the Texas Medical and Dental Student Application Service, officials say.

Applicants also rank their preferred schools and the service will then match the universities and students accordingly by late January.

"Since we did not get accredited until Oct. 17, we are interviewing through [Jan. 16]," School of Medicine Dean Francisco Fernandez said in a phone interview Jan. 11. "Then our admissions committee meets and does the ranking and we submit the ranking to the Texas Medical and Dental Student Application Service and then we hear back from them at the end of January. And we will make our announcement of who matched with us in the first week of February, when we're allowed to announce."

The list of the charter class will not be official until February but Fernandez has called around 30 applicants who have already been interviewed, telling them their ranking places them in consideration for acceptance into the school.

"We have accepted some individuals and told them we would rank them and so that process is ongoing," Fernandez said. "It's different every time the admissions committee meets but it's not formalized, you know, until the Texas Medical and Dental Student Application Service matches them with us."

The school started accepting applications in late November and received nearly 3,000 in just two and a half weeks.

As previously reported by *The Rider*, the school received preliminary accreditation last October from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education and is pending provisional accreditation from the organization, which is expected in 2017.

The school has been approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. It also needs to gain accreditation



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

The UT Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine is under construction on the Edinburg campus. Officials say the building is scheduled to be completed this semester.

from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

"[SACSCOC has] to also approve the medical school," Fernandez said. "We submitted the application last fall. ... We have not been told yet when we are scheduled for a site visit. But to open a medical school, you can start with LCME [preliminary] accreditation and SACS accreditation eventually follows."

Tuition and fees for the academic year will vary based on the student's state residency and medical health insurance coverage options, according to the UTRGV website.

"Tuition and fees, it's \$18,298 for Texas residents and non-Texas residents, it's \$31,398," Fernandez said. "Now, that's without health insurance but Texas requires the students to have health insurance or proof of insurance, one of the two."

If a student does not have insurance, they must purchase it for \$2,181 from the university, regardless of their residency

classification. The total cost per year, with insurance, is \$20,479 for Texas residents and \$33,579 for non-Texas residents.

Students accepted into the charter class will receive scholarships equivalent to 80 percent of their tuition regardless of residency classification, according to the school's website.

"We've been very blessed to have a community, the community has really provided a tremendous amount of support for the inaugural class," Fernandez said. "The charter class scholarship is one of the things that we are able to offer for their first year."

The charter class scholarship reduces tuition by \$13,068 for Texas residents and by \$23,548 for non-Texas residents.

A 15,000-square-foot Smart Hospital complex and a virtual anatomy and histology laboratory are under construction in Edinburg.

The building is scheduled to be ready by the end of spring and if it is not ready,

students will start class in July at the Regional Academic Health Center in Harlingen, the dean said.

Officials say the curriculum has been completed. It will consist of integrated basic and clinical sciences modules with an interprofessional portion in which students will work with professionals in other fields to help the community.

"We're teaching it where we are integrating the basic science with the clinical science," said Jodi Huggenvick, assistant dean of medical education pre-clerkship and basic sciences associate professor. "Almost each week we open up a clinical case on the computer and this serves as the patients for the students to focus in on their clinical problems, but also on learning their basic sciences that would contribute to their understanding of that patient's problem."

Among those who assisted Fernandez in creating the curriculum are Dr. Eron Manusov, a professor of clinical science, and John Ronnau, senior associate dean for Interprofessional Education.

Huggenvick assisted in planning how the first two years, pre-clerkship, of the medical school will run. Manusov assisted in the last two years, which will be of clerkship.

"We decided to teach it in modules," Manusov said about the curriculum. "You learn, for example, the heart and circulation, all at once and you put it all together from the very beginning. Normal, abnormal, autonomy, physiology, all those things right in the module. Then you also pair it from a very early stage, [with] clinical. You start on day one seeing patients. ... In fact, in several schools in Texas they don't see a patient till their third year. Never."

Interprofessional education teaches students in the classroom and in the community how to communicate with and understand the roles of other professionals.

"We're making this investment for several reasons," Ronnau said of

See MEDICINE, Page 10

Springing back

UTRGV kicks off semester with Week of Welcome

Jacqueline Arias
THE RIDER

Dinora Cabadas, a social work junior, is excited about the Week of Welcome and looks forward to the volunteering opportunities at the MLK Day of Service today.

"I am going to go," Cabadas said about attending events during the first week of school. "I just need to make time, since I work. I would like to see more [university events] about social work programs that you can do volunteer hours and get experience."

The Week of Welcome kicks off with the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, where there will be more than 1,000 volunteers across the Rio Grande Valley serving in the community.

Patricia Montemayor, UTRGV's Student Activities program coordinator, said although there is no class today, students on both campuses can volunteer at multiple agencies.

Several events will take place throughout the week on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses. They include the Toss for Luck, scheduled at noon in the Chapel of the Lord's Prayer Water Fountain in Edinburg and the Main Water Fountain in Brownsville, and an Involvement Fair that allows students to learn more about organizations on campus.

Volunteers at Info Depot booths will help students find their classes from 7:30

to 11:30 a.m. (outdoors) and from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (indoors) Tuesday and Wednesday.

Student Union Director Edna Zambrano said the union will host the Camp Fire Bash from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday in Edinburg and expects a few hundred people to attend.

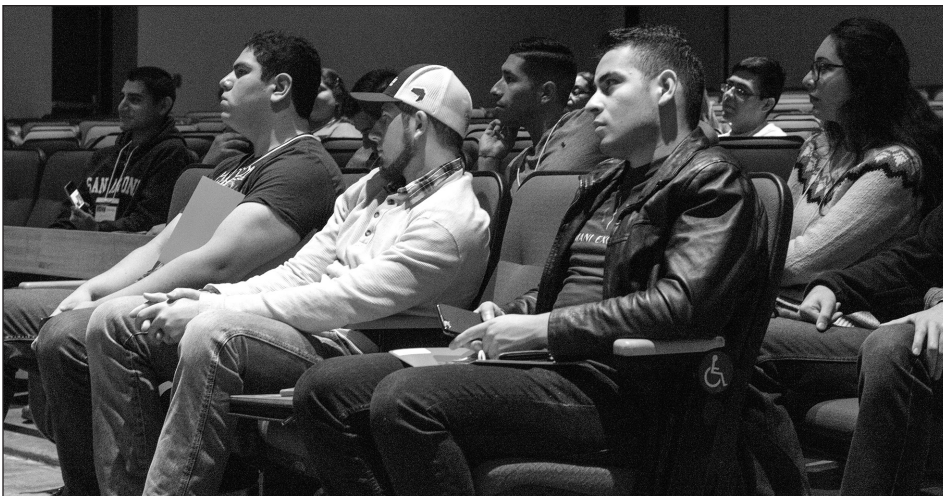
"We wanted to have something ... that goes with our theme of Vaquero," Zambrano said. "We thought a campfire would be fun and we'll be having some of those small open fire pits that you would have in your house, where the students will be able to make s'mores. We'll have some other drinks, and we're still trying to have a band for that. But, hopefully, we'll have some live music, but it will just be a small event just to kinda kick off the semester."

For more information on Week of Welcome events, visit utrgv.edu/weekofwelcome.



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Pablo Aguilar, service center supervisor for Parking and Transportation Services, hands a UT Rio Grande Valley transportation guide to nursing freshman Italia Gonzalez during an orientation session held Jan. 8 in front of the Student Union in Brownsville.



ENA CAPUCION/THE RIDER

Mechanical engineering major Erick Martinez (from left), environmental sciences major Daniel Dirrigl and nursing major Alexis Tinajero listen to a presentation in the student union theater during spring orientation.

Have a story idea?
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RESTAURANT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

comments received by the SGA, Molina said.

Some students said prices are too high at The Grid, the Brownsville campus' current food concession, located across from the library.

"I don't agree with the prices," education sophomore Edna Villarreal said. "I don't like them. They are affordable [to some people], but not for me. I don't work, that's the problem."

The prices, however, are not expected to change any time soon, said Marlen Benitez, Sodexo's retail manager on the Brownsville campus.

"[The prices] are all sent to us from corporate," Benitez said. "They add what it takes to build a certain food and then they add all the little things like paper goods, where I'm going to serve you [and] the labor cost."

Villarreal said that if their food is priced reasonably, these restaurants will benefit the campus.

"I don't want to go all the way to Subway or Wingstop because it's far away," she said.

The Grille will serve breakfast tacos, burgers and nutritious options. Subconnection will allow students to select the type of bread and toppings they want on their submarine sandwich.

These two new food concessions are part of Sodexo, UTRGV's food services provider.

"We really want them to have convenience," Cantu said. "We don't want them to leave campus to have to go grab a bite."

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Jan. 18-22, 2016

For more information:
UTRGV.EDU/WeekOfWelcome

Monday, Jan. 18

MLK Day of Service
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Edinburg & Brownsville Campus
Join over 1,000 volunteers in making the Rio Grande Valley a more Beloved Community! Together, we can empower individuals, strengthen our community, bridge barriers, create solutions to social problems, and move us closer to Dr. King's vision of a beloved community. Each year, Americans across the country answer that question by coming together on the King Holiday in service to others.

Service projects will be hosted at various locations throughout the Rio Grande Valley. Check-in will begin at 7:30 a.m. in both Brownsville and Edinburg and the service projects will conclude at 3:30 p.m.

For more information call Student Involvement at 956-665-2660 (Edinburg) or 956-882-5111 (Brownsville).

Tuesday, Jan. 19 - First Day of Class

Info Depots
7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (outdoor locations)
7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (indoor locations)
Edinburg & Brownsville Campus
If you have a question on the first two days of school, swing by one of the Info. Depots located in various campus locations where you can talk to faculty, staff, or an upperclassmen who can help point you in the right direction.

Toss for Luck
12:00 p.m.
Main Water Fountain (Brownsville)
Chapel of the Lord's Prayer Water Fountain (Edinburg)
During the first week of class each semester, students toss a nickel into the water fountains to be granted good fortune in health, wealth, love, success, and friendship. The fountains are the keepers of generations of wishes from faculty, staff, and students.

Involvement Fair
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Main Courtyard (Brownsville)
Quad (Edinburg)
The goal of these fairs is to help connect student organizations with the student body in an effort to increase involvement throughout campus. Help UTRGV increase the success of our student body of actively recruiting students to join your organizations.

SGA Meet and Greet
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Main Courtyard (Brownsville)

Wednesday, Jan. 20

Info Depots
7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (outdoor locations)
7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (indoor locations)
Edinburg & Brownsville Campus

Camp Fire Bash
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Quad (Edinburg)
Hot chocolate, s'mores, music and fun games!

Bingo for Books
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Student Union Lawn (Brownsville)
Come play Bingo with the Campus Programming Board! Students who win bingo games get an opportunity to earn V-bucks that can be used to purchase books.

Thursday, Jan. 21

SGA Meet and Greet
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
North Quad (Edinburg)

Vaqueros on the Mic
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Student Union Café & East Patio (Edinburg)
Come and sing karaoke for a chance to win some V-Bucks!

Women's Basketball Game against CSU Bakersfield
7:00 p.m. @ UTRGV Fieldhouse (Edinburg)




Saturday, Jan. 23

Women's Basketball Game against Seattle U
7:00 p.m. @ UTRGV Fieldhouse (Edinburg)

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

#UTRGVWOW

Sodexo Food Service Spring '16 Semester Operation Hours

 <div>Monday-Thursday 10:30a.m.-7:00p.m. Friday 10:30a.m.-3:00p.m.</div>	 <div>Monday-Thursday 7:30a.m.-8:00p.m. Friday 7:30a.m.-4:00p.m.</div>	 <div>Monday-Thursday 10:30a.m.-6:00p.m. Friday 10:30a.m.-2:00p.m.</div>	 <div>Monday-Thursday 10:30a.m.-6:00p.m. Friday 10:30a.m.-2:00p.m.</div>
  <div>Monday-Thursday 7:30a.m.-6:00p.m. Friday 7:30a.m.-1:00p.m.</div>	 <div>Monday-Thursday 7:30a.m.-7:00p.m. Friday 7:30a.m.-3:00p.m.</div>	 <div>Monday-Thursday 10:30a.m.-2:00p.m. Friday 10:30a.m.-2:00p.m.</div>	 <div>Monday-Thursday 7:30a.m.-7:00p.m. Friday 7:30a.m.-3:00p.m.</div>
 <div>Monday-Thursday 9:00a.m.-6:00p.m. Friday 9:00a.m.-2:00p.m.</div>	 <div>Monday-Friday <u>Breakfast</u> 7:00a.m.-10:30a.m. <u>Lunch</u> 11:00a.m.-2:00p.m. <u>Dinner</u> 5:00p.m.-7:30p.m.</div>	<div>Saturday-Sunday <u>Brunch</u> 11:00a.m.-1:00a.m. <u>Dinner</u> 5:00p.m.-6:30p.m.</div>	 <div>Monday-Thursday 7:30a.m.-6:00p.m. Friday 7:30a.m.-2:00p.m.</div>



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Located in El Comedor

Hours Subject to Change

Ahora sirviendo!

La Unión Estudiantil en Brownsville debuta dos nuevos restaurantes

Felipe Zamorano
THE RIDER

Al inicio de un nuevo semestre, dos nuevas concesionarias de alimentos abren el martes en la Unión Estudiantil en el campus de Brownsville.

“De hecho son dos conceptos diferentes”, dijo Roberto Cantu, el director ejecutivo de servicios auxiliares del campus. “El primero será The Grille @ UTRGV y el otro será Subconnection”.

La apertura de los restaurantes, programada para el semestre pasado, fue retrasada por varias razones, dijo Cantu.

“En respecto a la construcción, tomó un poco más, los proyectos fueron complejos”, dijo él. “[También] tuvimos algunos retrasos con el equipo del restaurante. Los fabricantes no tenían algunas de las piezas de los equipos que necesitábamos, así que no fueron mandadas a tiempo”.

Durante el semestre inicial de UT Rio Grande Valley, la Asociación de Gobierno Estudiantil (SGA, por sus siglas en inglés) preguntó a los estudiantes sobre preocupaciones en el campus y recibieron comentarios negativos acerca de los servicios alimentarios en el campus de Brownsville.

“Tuvimos al presidente del comite de vida estudiantil y otros estudiantes recolectando información durante nuestras reuniones de ayuntamiento”, dijo Denisse Molina, vice presidenta del gobierno estudiantil (SGA) en el campus de Brownsville. “Los estudiantes expresaron su experiencia con el actual restaurante, The Grid, y hablaron sobre los precios, disponibilidad de alimentos y otras opciones.”

La falta de comida caliente y opciones



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

UT Rio Grande Valley ahora tendrá un restaurante Subconnection operado por Sodexo en El Comedor de la Unión Estudiantil en Brownsville. Subconnection permitirá a los estudiantes seleccionar el tipo de pan e ingredientes que quieran en su sandwich estilo sub.

alimentarias fueron las principales preocupaciones en los comentarios negativos recibidos por el gobierno estudiantil, dijo Molina.

Algunos estudiantes dijeron que los precios están demasiado altos en The Grid, la concesionaria alimentaria actual del campus de Brownsville, localizada enfrente de la biblioteca.

“No estoy de acuerdo con los precios”, dijo Edna Villarreal, una estudiante de segundo año en educación. “No me agradan. Son accesibles [para algunas personas], pero no para mi. No trabajo, ese es el problema”.

Sin embargo, los precios no se espera que cambien en algún momento cercano, dijo Marlen Benitez, gerente de venta al por menor de Sodexo en el campus de Brownsville.

“[Los precios] son enviados a nosotros desde el corporativo”, dijo Benitez. “Ellos agregan lo que toma armar cierta comida y después le agregan las cosas pequeñas como artículos de papel, en los que te lo serviré [y] el costo laboral”.

Villarreal dijo que si la comida tuviera un precio razonable, estos restaurantes beneficiarían al campus.

“No quiero tener que ir hasta Subway

o Wingstop porque están muy lejos,” dijo ella.

The Grille servirá tacos de desayuno, hamburguesas y opciones nutritivas. Subconnection permitirá a los estudiantes seleccionar el tipo de pan e ingredientes que quieran en su sandwich submarino.

Estas dos nuevas concesionarias son parte de Sodexo, el proveedor de servicios alimentarios de UTRGV.

“En realidad queremos que tengan conveniencia”, dijo Cantu. “No queremos que salgan del campus para ir por un bocado”.

Chess team places second in nation

UTRGV hosts first tournament of the year



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Fédération Internationale des Échecs Master Awonder Liang (right) concentrates during the UT Rio Grande Valley Chess International GM/IM tournament Jan. 5 in Brownsville. During the first round, Liang drew against Russian Grandmaster Andrey Stukopin (left). In the Dallas Fall FIDE International tournament held last November, the 12-year-old from Madison, Wis., became the youngest American ever to qualify for the title of International Master.

Monica Gudiño
THE RIDER

Fresh off its second-place showing at the 2015 Pan American Intercollegiate Chess Championship, the UTRGV chess program hosted a tournament for grandmaster and international norms the week of Jan. 5.

“There are several goals,” Chess Coach Bartłomiej “Bartek” Macieja said. “One of them is to allow our players to meet strong opponents and to train. Second, is to gather here talented American players so maybe they can join our program.”

The UTRGV Chess Team qualified for the Final Four of Chess, formally known as the President’s Cup, at the Pan Am tournament, tying for first and placing second after the consideration of judges of the tie-break points. The President’s Cup determines the college chess team champion.

“I am really proud of my students and we qualified to the final tournament, which is called Final Four, which will take place in April in New York City,” Macieja said. “[The Pan Am] tournament also

See CHESS, Page 10

CLUB SPOTLIGHT



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Members of the American Marketing Association-Edinburg include Saydahli Mejia (front row, from left), Marcela Flores, Jolene Arellano and Fabiola Cortes. Back row: Alex Silva, Fuad Chagollan and Albert Adame.

Name: The American Marketing Association-Edinburg

Purpose: The AMA-Edinburg strives to teach its members the importance of marketing knowledge and serves as a highway of ideas for like-minded individuals. The collegiate chapter is determined to showcase value, which is engineered by proactive students within the College of Business. The organization provides members with the developmental tools and resources necessary to cultivate success when venturing into the universal realm of marketing. Therefore, its priority is to promote leadership and encourage diversity for the chapters to come.

President: Jolene Arellano

Public Relations Officer: Marcela Flores

Vice President: Oscar Ramos

Event Coordinator: Saydahli Mejia

Secretary: Albert Adame

Historian: Alex Silva

Treasurer: Fabiola Cortes

Graphic Designer: Fuad Chagollan

Adviser: Reto Felix, assistant professor in the College of Business

Activities: The organization uses skill-sets learned in lectures and exercises throughout the year. It hosts the fall Fashion Shows, the Spring Helix Music Fest and Marketing Week. Its fundraisers help pay expenses for the trip to the National Collegiate Conference in New Orleans in the spring. Members are encouraged to participate in the competitions and workshops.

Meetings: 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays in BUSA 116

Membership requirements:

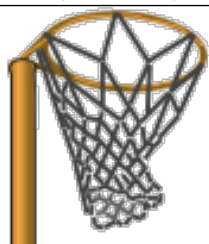
Collegiate chapter dues, \$30; national chapter dues, \$47 (optional but required for those attending the conference in New Orleans).

For more information, call: Jolene Arellano at (512) 785-0145

Website: amautrgvedinburg.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/amautrgv.edinburg

--Compiled by Lesley Robles



Bon appétit



Women’s basketball rolls up sleeves for WAC play

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

If a women’s college basketball season is a three-course meal, Head Coach Larry Tidwell’s group of women has moved past finger foods onto the main course.

Nonconference has come and gone, with the Vaqueros completing the road-heavy stretch with mixed results.

Even though it was just appetizers for conference, the schedule did include a few stiff challenges. Tidwell’s team went 8-7, while traveling to schools like Syracuse, Texas Christian and Kansas State and suffering defeats in most of those major conference games. They even were able to leave Houston with a 55-45 road victory over U of H, the first in program history.

Nonconference conditions a team for the different styles of play it may face during crucial games. WAC play, however, is about results, plain and simple. Teams fight for higher seeding in the end of season conference tournament that earns one team a berth in the NCAA tournament.

The Vaqueros are four games into conference and they are chowing down. Their record stands at 3-0 as of Jan. 14, outscoring their opponents 177-132 in these games.

A season ago, the team came out of the gates hot as well, winning their first four conference games. Despite a 9-5 WAC record last year, it was not enough to win their league. The team, then the Broncs, finished third.

This year, the squad feels like it is more complete and that



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Vaqueros guard Bernesha Peters plays close defense against Utah Valley. The freshman scored a career-high 20 points in the win.

the gap has been closed. This season gives an opportunity for the team to prove last year was just the start.

This season depth has proved to be a key to success for Tidwell’s group.

With the team’s second leading scorer, Mary Savoy, sidelined momentarily due to an injury, other players have stepped up.

In the conference opener against Grand Canyon University, Anushka Maldonado scored 14 points, tying the most in her career. She also picked up 11 rebounds for her second double-double.

Bernesha Peters, a freshman

guard, had breakout games in the team’s first pair of nonconference games. She averaged 19.5 points in those games and also earned herself WAC player-of-the-week honors.

Peters recognizes that the road-heavy schedule is a reality that they will have to cope with.

“We do a lot of traveling, a lot flying,” said Peters, the 5-foot-3-inch guard. “We have to rest up and keep our momentum, keep our head straight and just keep our focus throughout the whole season.”

Of the 29 games on this year’s schedule, 18 take place away from the Fieldhouse. Half of the conference games will take place on hostile courts.

After playing 11 of its first 15 games away from UTRGV, the team is well-versed in the art of road performances. Larry Tidwell, who put together the schedule, says the approach does not change much on the road. However, the intensity he expects his women to play with does.

“We play and approach everything just like we do home games,” Tidwell said. “Except when you’re on the road, you need to play 15 points better than your opponents. You’re in good arenas across the country and you got to play hard to keep your head above the water.”

Tidwell praised his team’s ability to find scoring options even at times when the typical point scorers, like Shawnte’

Goff, get played tough defensively.

“We have set plays for her and now [other teams] adjust to them; she’s getting doubled, she’s getting trapped,” he said. “So, naturally, we feed it to the person who’s open and that person needs to hit that. We have a plethora of options.”

One of those options is 5-foot-9-inch freshman guard Idril Türk. She has appeared in 14 of the team’s games, averaging 8.4 minutes in those games. The native of Istanbul, Turkey, is a role player who is gaining valuable experience in her first collegiate season.

“Even though we are a new team, I feel like we’ve known each other for a long time,” said Türk, who has competed with her country’s national team since age 12. “As a freshman, if we can benefit from our freshmen or from our bench they’ll help us win our games. We focus on our defense more than our offense, and I think that’s our key to success.”

To better last season and win the WAC, regular season or tournament, the Vaqueros will need all hands on deck. There are dates on the schedule that are circled, like the Jan. 30 clash between UTRGV and WAC powerhouse New Mexico State.

A game-by-game approach is how Tidwell demands his team looks at things. Asked how he gets everyone in that same mindset, he was blunt.

“They don’t have a choice.”

Athlete of the Week



JACQUELINE ARIAS/THE RIDER

Name: Hildur Kjartansdóttir
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Kinesiology
Sport: Basketball
Age: 21

Hometown: Stykkishólmur, Iceland

Who is your favorite athlete? “Elena Delle Donne.” Delle Donne is an American professional basketball player for the Women’s National Basketball Association.

Who is your role model? “My sisters.”

What is the best advice you’ve been given and by whom? “From my parents, to stay true to myself.”

Where’s your favorite hangout spot on campus?

Why? “Probably be in the locker room with my teammates. We hang out a lot--chill before and after practice.”

When did you begin playing basketball and why did you start? “I started playing when I was 8 years old. I started because all my friends were playing, and then I started liking it more and more. Eventually, I had to choose between sports and I chose basketball.”

Did you compete in high school and did you get any awards? “We don’t have high school basketball where I’m from, so I played for a club team. But I had got some awards through the time I played there. For my junior team, I was MVP for that team. For my senior team, I got best young player.”

What are your academic goals? “To always do my best. Go to class every day and maintaining my GPA.”

What is your favorite movie? “The Holiday.”

Where’s your dream vacation? “Right now, it would be to go home, my home in Iceland.”

How do you feel about being part of the first UTRGV Women’s Basketball Team? “It feels good. We get to set the standard and make people see what we’re all about.”

--Compiled by Jacqueline Arias



Vaqueros Captain Rickell Preston attempts a floater against Utah Valley Jan. 9 at the UTRGV Fieldhouse. UTRGV won the game 61-48.

Home Games

Basketball and Tennis

Wednesday, Jan. 20

**Women's Tennis
vs. University Of Maryland
Baltimore County**

10 a.m.

Orville I. Cox Tennis Center

Wednesday, Jan. 20

**Men's Tennis
vs. University Of Maryland
Baltimore County**

3 p.m.

Orville I. Cox Tennis Center

Thursday, Jan. 21

**Women's Basketball
vs. Cal State Bakersfield**

7 p.m.

UTRGV Fieldhouse

Saturday, Jan. 23

**Women's Basketball
vs. Seattle University**

7 p.m.

UTRGV Fieldhouse

Waiting for an opportunity



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Torie Slagle, of Colorado, waits for her physician assistant program interview last Thursday, outside the Health Sciences and Human Services East building. Several students from across the country waited in the lobby for their interview.

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CHESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

serves as the first training tournament preparation for the event. Apart from that, we will have a normal schedule, which means trainings and training tournaments as well.”

In the GM-norm International Chess Tournament, hosted by UTRGV, participants from Belarus, Canada, Cuba, Georgia, Hungary, Mexico, Poland, Russia and the United States competed. Among them were four grandmasters and six international masters.

Grandmaster (GM) is the highest title in chess, followed by International Master (IM) and FIDE Master (FM).

Women IM Akshita Gorti, 13, of Virginia, and FM Awonder Liang, a 12-year-old prodigy from Wisconsin,

competed in the tournament.

Liang won the 2013 World Youth Chess Championship, becoming the youngest American to qualify for the title of International Master.

Liang encourages students who are interested in chess to play as much as possible.

“Work on the game,” he said. “[Students] have to really kind of have a lot of determination for the game and they shouldn’t really give up.”

Liang’s father said the tournament was well organized.

“The university provided a great opportunity for kids, like my son, and other norm seekers,” Will Liang said. “It’s a beautiful thing to do.”

Twenty players participated in the two tournaments. Nine rounds were played during the week of Jan. 5.

all different times.”

Casas said he will travel to Edinburg during the spring semester to take his class.

Bailey said the university will focus on helping students more by helping them get the right classes in the right places.

“Our faculty, staff and students all worked very hard in a really complex environment [last fall],” he said. “We had tiny little things that we need to do better and correct, no question about that. ... Our biggest focus [for the spring] needs to be our work with students and helping them to do what they need.”

VOTING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Room. In Brownsville, the training is scheduled from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Thursday in the Student Union’s Gran Salón.

In the presidential race, Democrats seeking the nomination are former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley.

Vying for the Republican Party nomination are former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Dr. Ben Carson of Florida, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, former HP CEO Carly Fiorina of Virginia, former Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum and businessman Donald J. Trump.

Those who win their party’s nomination will be on the November General Election ballot.

Early voting in the primary election begins Feb. 16 and ends Feb. 26 statewide. Polling locations and times can be found in each county’s website.

Remi Garza, Cameron County elections administrator, said there will be more polling sites this year than in previous primary elections.

“We will have more locations that are open for longer periods of time than the last presidential election,” Garza said. “Numerically, it seems like we reduced it but actually we’ve increased it because they’re open longer in the areas that they’re open. There are going to be more opportunities to vote than the 2014 and 2012 elections.”

As of last Wednesday, there were 184,378 registered voters in Cameron County, Garza said.

Hidalgo County Elections Administrator Yvonne Ramón said there more than 28 polling locations. The early voting polling sites are still pending and will be presented to the Commissioners Court for consideration on Tuesday.

Brenda Renteria, Hidalgo County

Class preparation



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Norma Marquez, team leader for the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley bookstore, helps biology senior Rolando Martinez look for his textbooks last Thursday on the Brownsville campus. Students may rent or purchase their books during extended bookstore hours the first week of school, 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Regular bookstore hours are 7:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The final tournament standings reported to the U.S. Chess Federation are as follows: IM Zurab Javakhadze of Texas won first place in the IM-norm table; GM David Bercezes, also of Texas, placed second; and IM Roberto Martin del Campo, of Mexico City, finished third.

In first place for the GM-norm table was IM Andrey Gorovets, of Texas; second place, GM and UTRGV student Andrey Stukopin; and third, IM Daniel

Gurevich, of Georgia.

Liang placed ninth in the GM-norm table.

“The organization here has done a phenomenal job of providing excellent conditions for the players,” said Corey Kormick, the tournament’s sanction arbiter. “It’s like any other qualified discipline, lot of practice, lot of time going against stronger competition.”

MEDICINE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

interprofessional education. “Among them that we’ve learned in the literature, the research confirms this, that one of the major causes for errors that occur in hospitals or clinics or other medical

studies is that, simply, people don’t communicate with each other.”

Students will learn to communicate with each other in small group activities as well as through helping the local community, using their skills and working side by side with individuals in other careers.

SCHOLARSHIP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Kroll said. “Most of our students work--a vast majority have to work at least part time. And if we can give people a little scholarship money, they, in effect, can cut back on the hours they work. They can put a little more effort in their schooling, they can take more hours, they can finish quicker and so on and so forth.”

Janet Vackar’s father, Bert Ogden, opened his first car dealership, Ralph Balue Motors, along University Drive. Since then, the auto group has expanded throughout the Valley with 13 dealership

elections GIS operations manager, said the county has 315,463 registered voters.

However, the number of people who end up voting does not always match, Ramón said. Not all of the registered voters cast a ballot during the primary election.

“For some reason,” Ramón said. “People wait until General Elections.”

She said one of the benefits of early voting during the primary election is that voters can cast a ballot at any poll site, compared with Election Day, when they must vote in the precinct where they are registered.

Ramón encourages students to vote, especially since there will be polls on campus.

“It’s important that each voter selects their party before voting,” Ramón said. “So, be prepared to choose a party.”

Aaron Flores, sports management graduate student, believes Trump and Clinton will win the nomination of their party.

“I believe it’ll be between Trump and Hillary, and from those two, whichever

locations in cities such as Mission, McAllen, Edinburg and Harlingen. selling vehicles of all brands including Maserati, Kia, Chevrolet, Nissan, Infiniti, Buick GMC, Subaru, Volvo and Dodge.

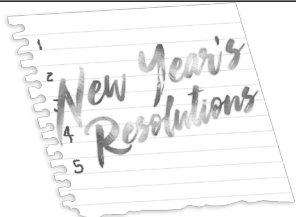
“I kind of hung out [at Ralph Balue Motors], and so I knew that his passion was the students over here,” Janet Ogden Vackar said. “They were his great customers. And the faculty would come and buy from him. He probably was supported more by them more than anyone in the Valley that came to him when he first started.”

person wins, hopefully, that person will be realistic with the American people and portray a good sense of direction for its people and overseas, the policy and public affairs with different presidents and governments,” Flores said. “Hopefully, they’ll get along with everyone.”

Mechanical engineering junior Daniel Mejia is an international student from Venezuela who said it is important to vote. Mejia can’t vote; however, he encourages others to vote because they can.

“Truthfully, it is very important for the citizens to vote,” Mejia said in Spanish. “You can’t vote and the next day say that the government is wrong or that it’s not functioning. It’s a way of expressing your opinion. For me, the elections are very important, especially because I’m from Venezuela. Venezuela’s government right now is not the best for us.”

For more information on requirements for registering to vote, visit the Texas Secretary of State website at www.sos.state.tx.us.



Rick R. Ramirez
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Setting goals for 2016

Tips for making attainable New Year's resolutions

Junior nursing major Alina Wadhwani kept her 2015 New Year's resolution of improving her grade-point average through ambition and hard work. This year, she and many others hope to do the same.

"I want to get back in shape. That's my new goal," Wadhwani said. "I've begun eating healthier and going to the gym."

Maureen Green, a family nurse practitioner at the UTRGV Health Services Clinic in Brownsville, said weight loss is a common goal many make as their New Year's resolution.

Green said she did not make any resolutions in 2015 because she usually breaks them in the first few weeks. This year, however, she has implemented a new plan of attack to keep her 2016 goals.

"Weight loss and getting in shape [are my goals for this year]," Green said. "My personal idea was we set the goal, we start them on Jan. 1. Then, we fail somewhere between Jan. 1 and Jan. 31, most of the time. So, what I did was I decided that I would have multiple reboots of my New Year's resolution. Instead of saying it's a failure, I would say, 'OK, there's a glitch in the matrix and I'm going to reboot.' ... That's probably my best advice for people."

The UTRGV Counseling Center offers services to students that can help improve their mental and physical health.

Maria Mazariegos, counseling specialist II, encourages the UTRGV community to seek help in improving various life elements such as time and stress management, health and wellness, and better study habits.

"My suggestion would be to visualize your goal," Mazariegos said. "Write it down. Share your goals with other people so that they can hold you accountable. Be



JESUS SANCHEZ/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Kinesiology sophomore Harry Chu deadlifts 295 pounds in the University Wellness and Recreation Sports Complex on the Edinburg campus.

open and proud about it."

Mazariegos' strategy aims to keep goals small and attainable while also maintaining a comfortable pace. She suggests writing down all progress and celebrating small achievements.

Senior Monique Castillo achieved her goal of running a 5k marathon in November 2015. The psychology major has set a similar resolution for this year.

"I want to run another marathon, but I want to beat my time from last year," Castillo said.

She continues to train and is determined to achieve her goal for a consecutive year.

Students, faculty and staff seeking to exercise and work on their physical

fitness can visit the UTRGV University Wellness and Recreational Sports Complex in Edinburg or the Texas Southmost College Recreation Center in Brownsville using a UTRGV ID.

For more information about the UREC's and TSC's Recreation Center hours of operation, call 665-7808 in Edinburg and 882-7176 in Brownsville.



Criminal justice junior Fidel Garza completes his final set of tricep pulldowns last Thursday in the UREC.

Afternoon rhythm

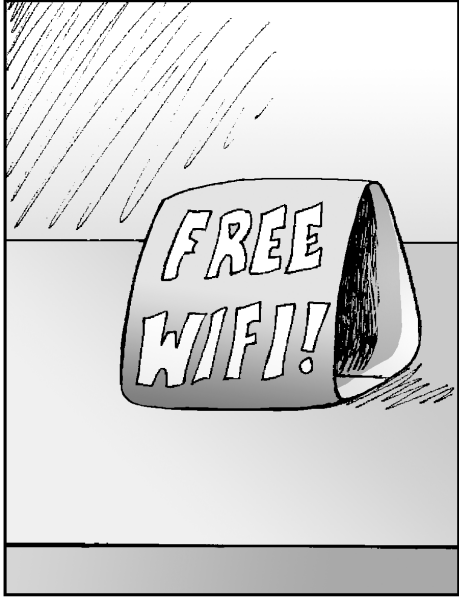


GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Physics senior Arnold Fonseca plays his guitar outside the library last Thursday on the Edinburg campus.

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By Clarissa Martinez



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