

## The handgun rulebook

University shares SB 11 recommendations

**Ena Capucion**  
 NEWS EDITOR

On Jan. 14, the UT Rio Grande Valley's Campus Carry Working Group released its interim recommendations report, including exclusion zones, holder responsibilities and the classroom environment.

When the Texas Legislature approved Senate Bill 11, or Campus Carry, on May 31, 2015, it was clearly depicted that university presidents would be allowed to designate certain zones to be gun-free. As a result, UTRGV President Guy Bailey created the Working Group made up of 13 students, faculty, staff and community representatives to discuss and address Campus Carry in regard to the university last September.

SB 11, which was signed into law by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott last June, allows license holders to carry a concealed handgun while on the campus of an institution of higher education in the state and takes effect next August at universities and Aug. 1, 2017, at junior colleges.

Ben Reyna, Security and Campus Affairs associate vice president, serves as the chair of the Campus Carry Working Group. He has about 30 years of experience in law enforcement and is probably the single most

See CARRY, Page 2

## Documenting homelessness

City conducts Point-in-Time count to establish need for state and federal aid

**Felipe Zamorano**  
 THE RIDER

Eduardo Valero often wonders where he will get his next meal.

"I have been homeless for three years now. I had financial problems," Valero said last Thursday as he stood outside the Good Neighbor Settlement House in Brownsville.

Valero, who said he has bipolar disorder and is blind in his right eye, is one of many people surveyed last Thursday for the Point-in-Time count conducted by the City of Brownsville.

The Point-in-Time count is a survey of homeless individuals in the community that is conducted every Jan. 21 across the nation.

"Homelessness, I think, is oftentimes misunderstood. It's not just experiencing financial hardship. ... It's a combination of crises," said Julia Lash, the Community Development Block Grant program manager for the City of Brownsville.

The survey, which is anonymous and does not ask the name of the respondent, includes demographic questions such as age, gender, where the individual slept the previous night and plans to sleep that night, the reason why they are homeless and the benefits and type of assistance they believe they need.



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Michelle Yates, case worker for La Posada in Harlingen, surveys Evaristio Carrion last Thursday during the Point-in-Time count at the Good Neighbor Settlement House in Brownsville.

Data collected in the count, which was conducted in collaboration with other organizations, is sent to state and federal authorities.

"We send the results to the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC) program, which is designed to end homelessness, who in turn take that information, compile an annual report and then hand it to the U.S. Congress," said Julia Lash, the Community Development Block Grant program manager for the City of Brownsville.

Marina Zolezzi, director of the city's Office of Grant Management and Community Development, said 836 homeless individuals were counted last year.

Based on those results, the city received about \$235,000 in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grants. Part of the money is used to fund the city's rental assistance and house stabilization programs. The rest is distributed among nonprofit organizations that run temporary shelters and

food pantries.

"Anyone who receives funding for that has to track these individuals and how long they're homeless," Lash said.

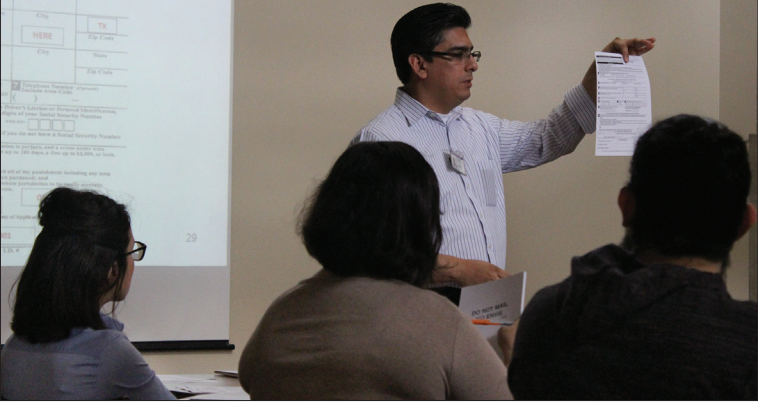
Ana Rodriguez, a case worker for Catholic Charities in Brownsville, was among the more than 40 volunteers who conducted the survey.

"We need to know what our homeless count is, what are the needs in our city and, basically, what we can do to end homelessness in our city," Rodriguez said.

See HOMELESS, Page 2

## Preparing for the primary

Voter deputy training held on campus



ANDREA TORRES/THE RIDER

Ruben Cervantes, an Hidalgo County voter registration specialist, shows the application for the deputy voter registrar certification during the Vaquero Voter Deputy training held last Tuesday on the Edinburg campus. The event was part of Week of Welcome activities at UTRGV.

**Trisha Maldonado**  
 THE RIDER

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley will hold a Vaqueros Vote Rally this week to register future voters.

In Edinburg, the rally will take place Tuesday at the Student Union Commons. In Brownsville, the rally is scheduled Wednesday on the Student Union lawn. Both rallies are expected to take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Last Tuesday, 10 UTRGV students and staff attended the Vaquero Vote Deputy Training

on the Edinburg campus. A training was also conducted last Thursday on the Brownsville campus.

UTRGV partnered with the Texas Freedom Network and the Hidalgo County Elections Department to provide the training for those interested in becoming volunteer deputy registrars.

Voter Registration Specialist Ruben Cervantes conducted the Edinburg session, explaining how to assist the community on registering to vote and, specifically, what to and what

not to ask a potential voter.

Ruben Garza, regional field organizer for the Texas Freedom Network, emphasized the importance of voter education, as many students are unaware of precinct locations and elections dates and times.

Garza also explained the process of voting and strategies for talking to students about voting.

Patricia Montemayor, student activities program coordinator, said Student Involvement will need help from deputies to register students to vote.

"Last year, we had the exact same event. We had over 500 students combined that registered to vote," Montemayor said. "We're expecting, since it's a big election coming up, for almost 1,000 registered voters."

"If you can even just do 20 to 30 minutes you'll be a great help, because last year we weren't expecting that much of a turnout so we were a little bit short-handed."

For more information on the requirements for registering as a volunteer deputy registrar, contact the Hidalgo County Elections Department at 318-2570 or visit the Hidalgo County website at <http://tx-hidalgocounty.civicplus.com>.

## Volunteers sweep across the Valley



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Math freshman Dennis Rodriguez (left) and engineering senior Alberto Vilano gather leaves Jan. 18 at the Old City Cemetery in Brownsville during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. More than 1,000 volunteers from both campuses took part. Americans across the country come together on the King holiday in service to others.



**Run Away with Me' fundraiser**  
The UTRGV Exercise Science Club will host the **"Run Away with Me"** 5K and 1 mile Run/Walk fundraiser at 7 a.m. Feb.20 in the Main Building on the Brownsville campus. Early registration is \$30, late registration is \$35. To register online, visit <https://www.raceentry.com/races/run-away-with-me-/2016/> register. For more information, call 336-8941 or email race coordinator **Sigfredo Zavala** at [sigfredo.zavala01@utrgv.edu](mailto:sigfredo.zavala01@utrgv.edu).  
*--Compiled by Monica Gudiño*



# In motion

Monica Gudiño  
THE RIDER

“Transition,” a kinetic sculpture exhibit by Corpus Christi artist Jimmy Peña, opens at 6 p.m. Tuesday in The Gallery at Rusteberg Hall on the Brownsville campus.

Peña has been a member of the K-Space Art Studios in Corpus Christi for nearly 18 years.

“I’ve drawn and painted most of my life and, for many years, I’ll occasionally distract myself by tinkering with kinetic sculpture in its simplest form,” Peña wrote in his artist statement.

The name “Transition” describes Peña’s move from drawing and painting to sculpture.

“He will be, kind of, leaving his drawing behind and transition to kinetic sculpture,” said Alejandro Macias, a lecturer in the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley’s Visual Arts Department. “He will have a little bit of both in the show.”

A kinetic sculpture is one that moves and is set in motion by an internal

mechanism or external help, such as light or air.

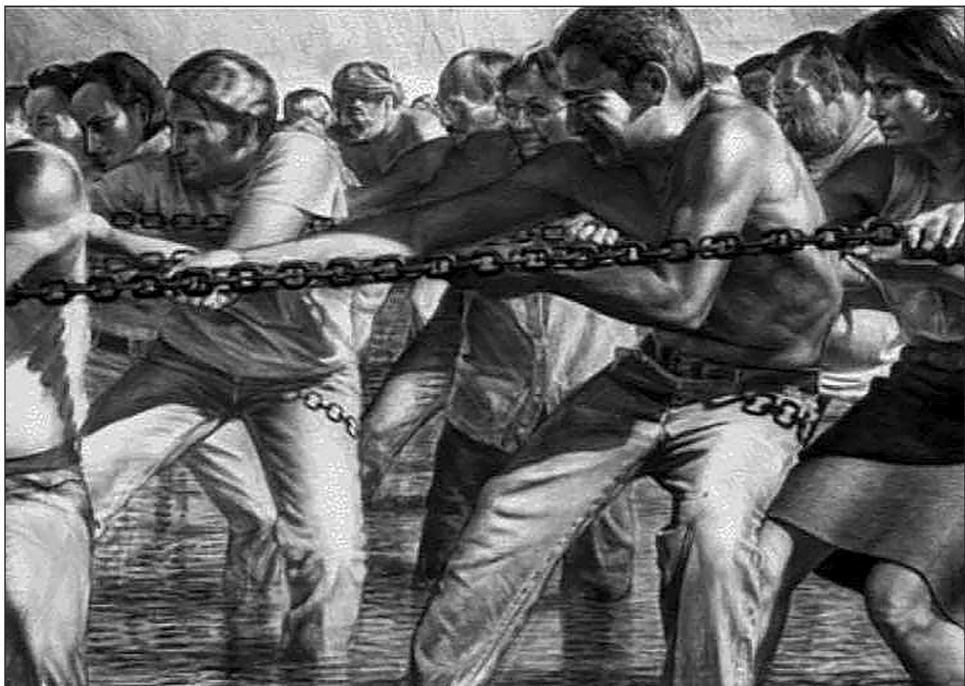
“The most important piece is like an abstract shape female figure that is doing this dance or revolving around this larger shape that is a geometric shape,” Peña said.

The goal of the exhibit is to display the transition he is going through as he pursues excellence in art.

“Jimmy has been practicing his craft for a while now and the fact that his work really showcases that, and the fact that he can draw so well and then move on and do something else shows that he is very versatile and is able to do many things,” Macias said.

Peña said he made the transition because he gets more energized when creating kinetic pieces than with drawing or painting.

“The time has come to devote my artistic efforts to kinetic sculpture,” Peña said. “This show has given me the opportunity to display examples of works from the past, the present and the future.”



COURTESY PHOTO

“Esfuerzo” by Jimmy Peña

Admission is \$1 and student semester passes are \$3. The exhibit continues through Feb. 19.

For more information, call Macias at 882-7025.

# Documentando la falta de vivienda

Felipe Zamorano  
THE RIDER

Eduardo Valero seguido se pregunta dónde obtendrá su siguiente comida.

“He estado sin vivienda por tres años ya. Tuve problemas financieros”, Valero dijo el pasado jueves mientras permanecía de pie afuera del Good Neighbor Settlement House en Brownsville.

Valero, quien dijo tener un desorden bipolar y estar ciego de su ojo derecho, es una de las muchas personas encuestadas el pasado jueves para el conteo Point-in-Time realizado por la ciudad de Brownsville.

El conteo Point-in-Time es una encuesta de individuos sin vivienda en la comunidad que es realizado cada enero 21 a lo largo de todo el país.

“La falta de vivienda, yo creo, es a menudo malentendida. No solo es experimentar dificultad financiera. ... Es una combinación de varias crisis”, dijo Julia Lash, la directora del programa Subvención Global de Desarrollo Comunitario de la ciudad de Brownsville.

La encuesta, que es anónima y no pide el nombre del que responde, incluye preguntas demográficas como la edad, sexo, donde durmió el individuo la noche anterior y donde planea dormir esa noche, la razón por la que carece vivienda y los beneficios y tipos de asistencia que creen necesitar.

Los datos recolectados en el conteo, el cual es realizado en colaboración con



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Julia Lash explica el conteo Point-in-Time el pasado jueves en la oficina de Friendship of Women Inc. El conteo se realizó en todo el condado de Cameron.

otras organizaciones, son enviados a las autoridades estatales y federales.

“Enviamos los resultados al programa Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care, el cual está diseñado para erradicar la falta de vivienda, quienes en cambio toman esa información, compilan un reporte anual y lo entregan al Congreso de los Estados Unidos”, dijo Lash.

Marina Zolezzi, la directora de la Oficina de Gestión de Subvenciones y Desarrollo Comunitario, dijo que 836 individuos sin hogar fueron contados el año pasado.

Basado en esos resultados, la ciudad

recibió alrededor de \$235,000 en subvenciones del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano del gobierno de los Estados Unidos. Parte del dinero es usado para financiar los programas de asistencia de renta y estabilización del hogar de la ciudad. El resto es distribuido entre organizaciones sin fines de lucro que operan albergues temporales y despensas de alimentos.

“Cualquiera que reciba financiamiento para eso tiene que rastrear a estos individuos y cuánto tiempo llevan sin vivienda”, dijo Lash.

Ana Rodríguez, una trabajadora de

casos para Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley en Brownsville, fue una de los más de 40 voluntarios que realizaron la encuesta.

“Necesitamos saber cuál es el número de personas sin vivienda, cuales son las necesidades en nuestra ciudad y, básicamente, que podemos hacer para acabar con la falta de vivienda en nuestra ciudad”, dijo Rodríguez.

Ella tiene esperanzas de que la información recolectada en la encuesta se traducirá a más viviendas accesibles y oportunidades de empleo, cuya falta ella dice contribuye a la falta de vivienda.

Lash dijo que el sondeo cubrió todo el Condado de Cameron, donde, de acuerdo a la Oficina del Censo de los Estados Unidos, la tasa de pobreza es de 34.5 por ciento.

Varias organizaciones sin fines de lucro, incluyendo Friendship of Women Inc., Ozanam Center Inc., Sunshine Haven Inc., el Brownsville Literacy Center y el Good Neighbor Settlement House, al igual que Home Depot, Lowe’s y Academy Sports and Outdoors, proporcionaron voluntarios y donaron artículos de aseo y calcetines para ser dados a los que respondieron.

Cualquiera que esté en necesidad de asistencia puede llamar a la Oficina de Gestión de Subvenciones y Desarrollo Comunitario al 548-6167, donde serán referidos a las agencias apropiadas.

# The gift of education



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

State Sen. Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen) presents UTRGV with a gift of \$50,000 for scholarships during a news conference last Wednesday at the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. The scholarships will support first-generation college students pursuing degrees in all majors at UTRGV. Hinojosa raised the money when he served as “Governor for a Day” during the last legislative session, according to a university news release.

# A classical evening



ANA CARHUICHE/THE RIDER

Pianist Mark Fouxman performs six selections from composers including Schubert, Schumann and Liszt. Fouxman was born in Russia and is a member of the Schlern International Music Festival in Italy. An audience of more than 70 listened as he gave a passionate performance last Wednesday at the Texas Southmost College Arts Center.



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## Campus Q & A

What would you have done if you had won the Powerball jackpot?



**Luissanyi Campos**  
Mechanical engineering freshman

"I would have bought a house and a car for myself."



**Frimato Rodriguez**  
Biology senior

"I would have paid my way through grad school."



**Janine dela Cruz**  
International business freshman

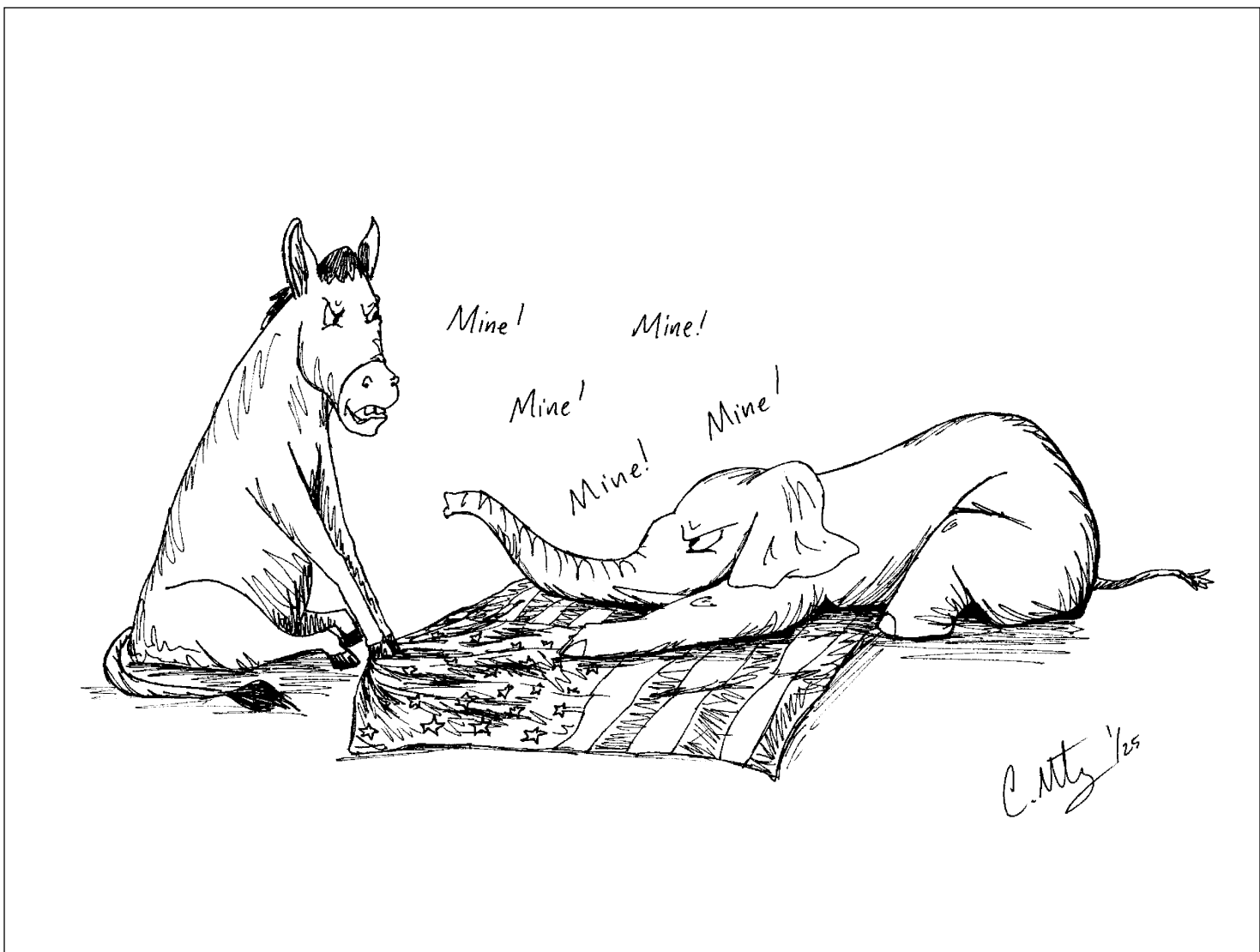
"Primarily, I want to pay for my loans and then quarter of it, I'm going to donate it to charity, and the rest of it, I think I want to buy lands and properties from another country."



**Osbert Bazan**  
Biology senior

"Fuera a comenzar un negocio. Al menos hacer como unos apartamentos cerquita de el colegio, y fuera una parte de mi lotería a [investigación]."

--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza and Lesley Robles



**Ana Cahuiche**  
THE RIDER

I have a passion for science and art and this is what has gotten me to where I am now. I work as a photographer for *The Rider*, but unlike what many may think, I am not an art or communication major. I am a biology major.

When I tell people about this apparent contrast they usually get surprised, but that is when I get to share my philosophy: Science is art.

For many years, I participated in art camps, dance classes, gymnastics and other artsy activities, but at the same

## The art of science

time I would come home with excellent grades in my science courses and awards for related activities. This helped me discover my love for learning about our world and how it works.

My dual passion for the two "opposite" branches of study continues to this day.

When we talk about science, we might think we are talking about something completely different from art.

Art is defined by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as a "skill acquired by experience, study, or observation," "a branch of learning, one of the humanities" and also as "an occupation requiring knowledge or skill."

Looking at this definition might help one see the similarities between science and art more clearly. The same applies to art: It requires analyzing and studying a certain thing in order to get the desired results in a piece.

Take a moment to consider the materials used to create any kind of artwork, things such as paint, paper, pencils, light, angles and shadows. They are all main components of science.

We can say science is an art and art is a science--this is my philosophy.

Growing up, you are told to search for your passion, to find your way, to find something you like and go in that direction, but what happens when you have a mutual love for two opposite things? Which one do you follow? What road do you take? Is it one or the other?

My answer would be--take both! Don't stop doing the things you love. Find a way to keep growing in the areas you are passionate about.

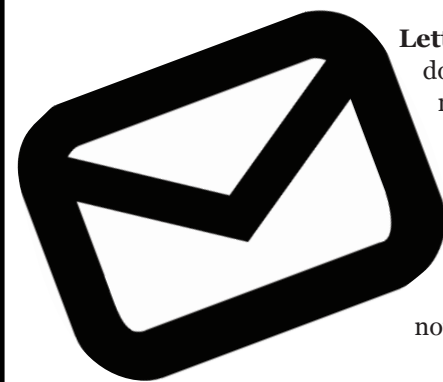
In my case, I found that even though I loved dancing, taking photographs, painting and cooking, these things would not give me the same satisfaction as learning about how the body and our world works. Once you realize these things, your priorities will become clear.

I learned that my curiosity was bigger than my creativity, so even though it's a more difficult path, I followed my dream to become a surgeon.

Because I never neglected my skills in art, today I can enjoy growing into my professional career and at the same time, enjoy the fruits of what one day were only hobbies by working as a photographer for *The Rider*.

# Visit us at [utrgvrider.com](http://utrgvrider.com)

## 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 [utrgvrider@gmail.com](mailto:utrgvrider@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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# Springtime is for serving

## Men’s tennis settles in under new leadership

**Nathaniel Mata**  
SPORTS EDITOR

UTRGV tennis has been on hiatus from competition since October, but the break from play is over and Brett Bernstein’s team is back on the courts at the Orville Cox Tennis Center.

A former UT Pan American standout tennis player now back as the head coach, Bernstein is preparing his team of eight for the strong schedule ahead.

As opposed to the fall season when Bernstein was hired *after* student-athletes were already back to school and practice, this semester he had time to prep.

A pre-season schedule may have played into the equation as UTRGV went out last Wednesday and earned a 6-1 victory at home over the University of Maryland-Baltimore County Retrievers.

“We actually had somewhat of a pre-season prep,” Bernstein said. “It helps out in solidifying who my top-gear guys are. Everyone’s starting to fall into place. I got the guys believing in themselves, they’re going in a lot more confident. I think they have a lot more confidence in me. So, it helps out in all facets.”

Koby Jansen, a sophomore from Queensland, Australia, won in both doubles and singles. Doubles pair of Jansen and Yehonatan Kaufman triumphed 6-3 over their visiting counterparts.

In singles, Jansen won via a two-set sweep over Retriever Melker Svard (6-3, 6-3). Vaqueros Harry Wells and Cosme Jubera won their doubles match 6-4.

Also earning singles wins for UTRGV were Kaufman, Jubera, Elliot Johnstone and Juan Cruz Soria.

The team is led by two designated co-captains, something Bernstein said the program had not assigned in a while. The

team’s elder statesman, Soria, is one of the captains and the only upperclassman on the roster. The other half of the co-captaincy is sophomore Jansen, who has been strong in his first two years with the program.

Soria won his match last Wednesday against UMBC’s Justin Carter (6-1, 3-6, 6-3).

A season ago, Soria was named WAC Men’s Tennis Player of the Year. His skill on the court is no question. With half of the team coming in as freshmen, Soria knows that his leadership role will be vital to the growth of the team.

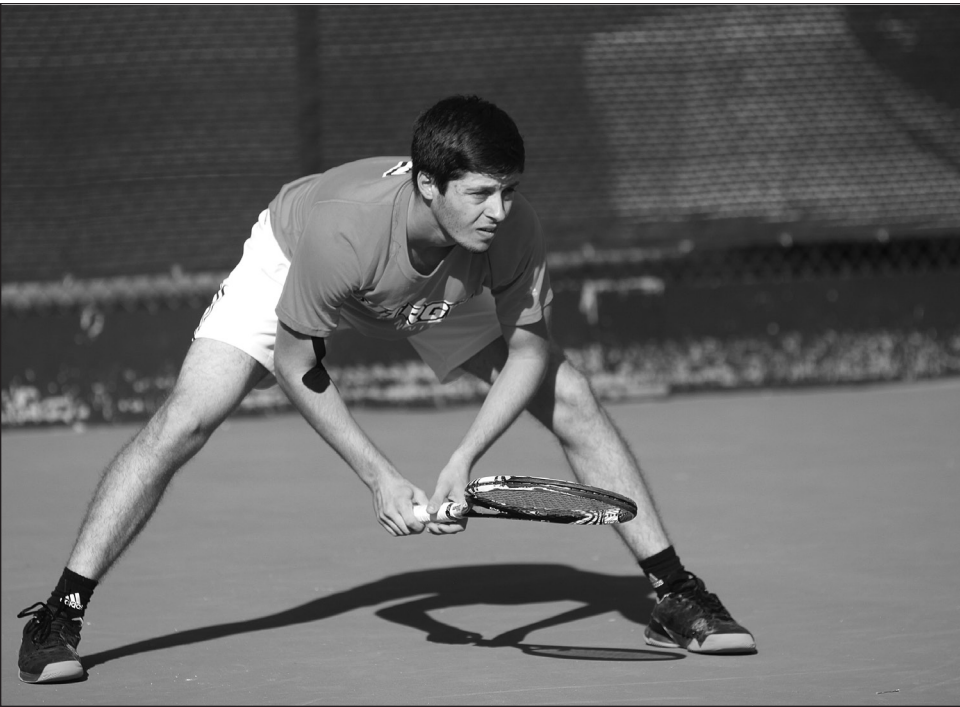
“The whole team is pretty excited, the [freshmen] are excited, the new coach is excited about this opportunity that we have,” the Argentina native said. “I have more experience than them. I think that they see me like a role model. I try to behave and lead them by example, helping them in any aspect they need: tennis, school, whatever they need.”

The schedule for the team is Texas-heavy, including trips to College Station to face Texas A&M University and Dallas to play against Southern Methodist University.

The team leaves Texas a handful of times, however. It will travel to the New Orleans area for three away matches. Nicholls State University, New Orleans University and Lipscomb University will host UTRGV in Louisiana.

Western Athletic Conference clusters will take place in late March and early April when the Vaqueros go to Las Cruces, N.M., and then to Kansas City, Mo. These matches, late in the spring season, will determine the seeding for the end-of-season WAC tournament.

This year’s WAC Championship will take place in the RGV, at the Brownsville Tennis Center April 29 to May 1.



Junior Juan Cruz Soria prepares to return a serve during a match last Wednesday against the University of Maryland-Baltimore County Retrievers. Soria won his singles match 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Sophomore Koby Jansen serves during his singles match last Wednesday against UMBC. Jansen swept the match 6-3, 6-3.



Freshmen Cosme Jubera (left) and Harry Wells celebrate during their 6-4 doubles win over UMBC at the Orville Cox Tennis Center in Edinburg.

# Hats off to Sova!

**Nathaniel Mata**  
SPORTS EDITOR



S o p h o m o r e Teresa Sova was named Western Athletic Conference Track & Field Athlete of the Week for Jan. 11-17.

Sova received her award following her performance in College Station during the Texas

A&M Team Invitational.

She ran a career-best time of 18:12.81 in the 5,000-meter run on her way to first place. The time is not only a career-best but a meet record and the best 5,000 time in all of the WAC so far this season.

The Mercedes native will continue to lead distance runners as the indoor Track & Field season team prepares for the WAC indoor championships in February.

Visit us at  
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### Home Games

#### Basketball

Saturday, Jan. 30

**Women's Basketball  
vs. New Mexico State**

**8 p.m.**

**UTRGV Fieldhouse**

Sunday, Jan. 31

**Women's Basketball  
vs. Texas A&M -  
Kingsville**

**12 p.m.**

**UTRGV Fieldhouse**



# Good luck!



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Members of the University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley Student Government Association toss nickels into the Main Water Fountain Tuesday on the Brownsville campus during the Toss for Luck event. Students, faculty and staff from both campuses were encouraged to toss a nickel into the water fountains to be granted good fortune in health, wealth, love, success and friendship.

# S'more, please!



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Biology junior Ymica Castillo roasts a marshmallow over a fire pit last Wednesday during the Camp Fire Bash in front of the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

# Bingo for bucks



CLARISSA MARTINEZ/THE RIDER

UTRGV bilingual education juniors Victoria Alonzo (left) and Mayra Tovar mark their cards during Bingo for Books. Student Involvement hosted the event and served free refreshments.

# Into the music



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Theater freshman Jennifer Saenz sings "Same Old Love" by Selena Gomez at the Vaqueros on the Mic event last Thursday on the Edinburg campus.

# Opportunity for involvement



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Abraham Villarreal, student organizations program specialist, prepares Frito pies for Karla Escobedo, a clinical laboratory sciences junior (left), and Marina Cisneros, a psychology senior, during the Involvement Fair last Tuesday on the Main Courtyard in Brownsville.

# Vaqueros serving the RGV



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Biology sophomore Kristina Cantú helps make posters on Jan. 18 for a walk to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day for the South Texas Juvenile Diabetes Association.

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