



THE RIDER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY



Sports: Vaqueros gear up for 2016 season

Vol. I, Issue 18

Student reports professor slapped her

University Police investigating

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The UTRGV Police Department is investigating a case in which a professor allegedly slapped a student during a class discussion last month on the Edinburg campus.

“As far as what was reported to us, during the lecture, a student was slapped by a professor as he was giving the lecture,” UTRGV Police Chief Raul Munguia said. “Apparently, from my understanding, the intent of the professor was to, was making a point. However, unless you pre-arranged with the person, that can be problematic.”

No charges have been filed. From what was reported to the department, “it appears that it falls under a Class C, simple assault,” the chief said.

“As I understand, he is still employed,” he said. “The pro-

fessor, from my understanding, is ... on administrative paid leave at this time.”

Munguia said it appears the case will be under investigation for a few weeks.

“At this point, there has been follow-ups; charges have not been filed as of yet,” Munguia said. “We have offered the student an opportunity to go and file and for us to go with the student to the court in power. That has not occurred yet.”

The Rider requested a copy of the offense report and received an incident report that did not provide the name of the professor or student. The newspaper then requested the supplemental report and follow-up but Munguia said he was not going to release it because the case is under investigation.

“If an incident is under investigation, we don’t release it, even if an open records request is made of it, we don’t release



it,” the police chief said. “What we end up doing, if we get an open records request, we’ll send it back to the attorney general and tell them, ‘This is why we don’t want to release it.’”

The Rider called UTRGV President Guy Bailey for comment on the case but as of press

time Thursday, he had not returned calls.

The newspaper contacted Patrick Gonzales, assistant vice president of University Marketing and Communications at UTRGV, for assistance in reaching Bailey.

At 10:37 p.m. Thursday, Gonzales texted the following to *The Rider*: “We can not provide further comment at this time. And while there isn’t a written policy, it is standard procedure for the university not to discuss the investigation publicly to protect the integrity of the investigation.”

Ala Qubbaj, UTRGV vice provost for Faculty Affairs and Diversity, said the university’s priority is the safety of the students.

“I’m not talking about any

specific incident but, usually, when there are incidents of the nature you are asking about, usually, these are taken on a case-by-case basis and the first thing we keep in mind, you know, is the safety of the student,” Qubbaj said. “Sometimes, while ... the university is investigating the situation, we find it in the best interest of the faculty member and the student to put the faculty member on administrative leave, so that things will be clear and we could come down to the facts and investigate the situation. Again, it depends on the situation, it depends on the case. It’s taken on a case-by-case basis.”

Asked what students can do if they have an issue, Qubbaj replied they can send the complaint via the Vaquero Care Report It Form, which is available at utrgv.edu/reportit.

See CASE, Page 10

Burglary at Garza Gym

Electronics stolen; 1 juvenile arrested

Oscar Castillo
THE RIDER

One of three juvenile suspects has been arrested in connection with last month’s burglary of Texas Southmost College’s Garza Gym.

Around 3:30 a.m. Jan. 31, Brownsville Police Department officers spotted suspicious individuals fleeing the TSC campus carrying several UTRGV labeled bags and reported the incident to university police.

UTRGV Police notified the campus community of the burglary via email later that day, which stated the suspects broke a window to gain entrance into the building, which is used by UTRGV staff and students.

“When the [Brownsville Police] officers approached the individuals, they took off running,” UTRGV Police Chief Raul Munguia said. “We went out there and started assisting them and also checking the area. We found the gym had



OSCAR CASTILLO/THE RIDER

University Police say three juveniles broke into the Garza Gym Jan. 31 and stole electronics.

been broken into and one of the subjects that Brownsville PD had been looking for. From our understanding, there was two that ran off.”

The three male juvenile suspects are believed to reside in the neighborhoods adjacent to Ringgold Road. One has been

detained by BPD and is facing burglary of a building charges, Munguia said.

The chief said the juvenile was questioned but refused to identify the other subjects.

Mike Ostman, recreation program coordinator for UTRGV’s Brownsville campus, said he called University Police on Feb. 1 asking which doors had been broken into and was told “all of them.” They asked him to identify what may have been taken from his office.

“What I witnessed when I got here was, if there was not a window in the office, they had smashed a hole through the door,” Ostman said last Wednesday.

He said some of the items stolen included a \$1,000 Mac computer, a \$2,500 public address system, a 16 GB USB, a flashlight, a UREC branded hat and a box cutter. Ostman has gotten no updates from

See BREAK-IN, Page 8

Innovation in RGV



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHICS

Felipe Zamorano
THE RIDER

UT Rio Grande Valley, the City of Weslaco and the Weslaco Economic Development Corporation have signed an agreement to redevelop a building that will house the university’s Center for Innovation and Commercialization and a new business incubator.

“We hope that this center [will

be] a laboratory for students who want to learn something about entrepreneurship,” said Mark Kroll, dean of the College of Business and Entrepreneurship. “The purpose of it is to help new ventures develop a business model.”

As part of the agreement, the City of Weslaco will provide a building located at 257 S. See PARTNERSHIP, Page 10

Congressional candidates to take the stage Tuesday

Ena Capucion
NEWS EDITOR

The Progressive Young Democrats at UT Rio Grande Valley will host a congressional forum featuring the candidates running this year for District 15 congressman. The event will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the historic Cine El Rey theatre in downtown McAllen.

Last semester, the PYDs would meet every Monday night to conjure up ideas and talk about different ideological topics that pertain to citizens



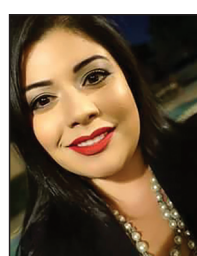
Vicente Gonzalez



Joel Quintanilla



Rance Sweeten



Vanessa Tijerina



Juan Palacios Jr.



Ruben Villarreal

not only on a national level, but also on a local level in the Rio Grande Valley. The officer meetings would range from 15 minutes to nearly five hours discussing all the possibilities for future events and current controversial issues such as campus carry.

The forum will parallel that of a debate, where all of the candidates will be lined up on stage and introduce themselves following a statement. The participants will receive questions from different organizations on campus as well as those sent in by local

residents and UTRGV students.

After hearing that Ruben Hinojosa, current District 15 congressman, will be retiring after nearly 20 years of service, political science Assistant Professor Angel Saavedra expects the congressional election to be rather competitive.

“I think it leaves a power void because he’s been in office for a while and now that we have no incumbent, it’s going to make the race interesting because a lot of people who we have very little knowledge about are going to try to make sure people know who they are, so that they can vote for them,” Saavedra said. “And it’s coming up in a couple of days, so it is important for people to get to know their candidates before going in and casting a vote.”

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THE RIDER

The Rider is the official 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.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Jesus Sanchez

NEWS EDITOR

Ena Capucion

SPORTS EDITOR

Nathaniel Mata

PHOTO EDITOR

Mario Gonzalez

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Rick R. Ramirez

REPORTERS

Andrea Torres

Monica Gudiño

Trisha Maldonado

Felipe Zamorano

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Michelle Espinoza

Lesley Robles

Ana Cahuiche

Gabriel Mata

Jesus Esparza

COPY EDITORS

Oscar Castillo

Jonathan Baldwin

Andy De Llano

WEBMASTER

Sharath Aitha

CARTOONIST

Clarissa Martinez

ADVERTISING SALES

MANAGER

Maria Rincon

ADVERTISING SALES

REPRESENTATIVES

Marc Peña

Manoj Veluvolu

STUDENT MEDIA DIRECTOR

Azenett Cornejo

STUDENT MEDIA PROGRAM

ADVISER

Carina Alcantara

ADMINISTRATIVE

ASSISTANTS

Anita Reyes

Ana Sanchez

CONTACT

EDINBURG CAMPUS

1201 West University Dr.

ARHU 170

Phone: (956) 665-2541

Fax: (956) 665-7122

BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS

1 West University Blvd.

Student Union 1.16

Phone: (956) 882-5143

Fax: (956) 882-5176

Email: utrgvtherider@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free flu shots

UTRGV Health Services will administer **free flu shots** for students from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at its clinic in Cortez Hall 237 on the Brownsville campus and its clinic at 613 N. Sugar Rd. on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call Office Assistant **Beverly Estrada** at 882-3896.

Lunar New Year Celebration

The **Office of Global Engagement** will host a **Lunar New Year Celebration** today from 2 to 3 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus and from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus. Free international food, calligraphy, face painting, games, lanterns and more will be offered. For more information, call UTRGV International Admissions and Student Services at 882-7092 in Brownsville or at 665-2922 in Edinburg.

SGA events

The **Student Government Association** will sponsor three activities this week. In the **“Fallin’ for You”** couple photo contest, prizes will be awarded for most liked photo (\$100 Vbucks each) and second most liked (\$50 Vbucks each). Interested students may submit their photo by 11:59 tonight at sga@utrgv.edu. On **Fat Tuesday**, the SGA will serve free doughnuts from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville. A **Kissing Booth** will be in place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday in the Main Building’s courtyard on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 882-5937.

Self-Confidence Group

The UTRGV **Counseling Center** hosts a self-confidence group, **“Reveal Yourself,”** from 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays in Cortez Hall 118 on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 882-3897.

Mardi Gras

UTRGV will celebrate **Mardi Gras** with face painting and mask decorating at noon Tuesday in the Commons on the Edinburg campus and in the Student Union’s Comedor on the Brownsville campus. Food will be served and the UTRGV **Jazz Ensemble** will perform. For more information, call 665-7989.

Juju Chang: ‘The Power of Your Story’

The **National Society of Leadership and Success** will sponsor a video broadcast featuring ABC News’ “Nightline” co-anchor **Juju Chang**, who will speak on **“The Power of Your Story”** at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Main Building’s Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus. For more information, visit www.societyleadership.org.



POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Jan. 26 and Feb. 2.

January 26

12:34 p.m.: An officer stopped a student for having an expired motor vehicle registration sticker. The officer noticed an odor of burnt marijuana coming from the car. After the vehicle was searched, the prescription medication Tamoxifen was found and the driver admitted to owning the pill, which is commonly used for breast cancer. The student said he takes steroids and uses Tamoxifen to “balance out” his estrogen levels. The officer also found marijuana debris. The student was arrested on a charge of possession of a dangerous drug, a class B misdemeanor, and booked into the Edinburg Municipal Jail.

January 27

8:05 a.m.: Two vehicles driven by staff members collided in Lot A6 on the Edinburg campus. The driver of a Chevrolet Cavalier attempted to turn into a parking space when it struck a Chevrolet Sonic traveling through the aisle. No injuries were reported and there was only minor damage to the vehicles.

January 28

10:43 a.m.: A Ford Fusion driven by a

Peace of mind yoga sessions

Learn how to manage stress levels and do various types of yoga exercises from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday on the Brownsville Student Union lawn. The event is sponsored by the **Student Government Association**. For more information, call 882-5937.

‘Love and War’

The UTRGV **Counseling Center** will host a couples group therapy, titled **“Love and War,”** on Wednesday. Interested couples may sign up by emailing **Maria Alejandra Mazariegos** at maria.mazariegos@utrgv.edu or calling 882-3897.

The Gentleman’s Code

Counseling and Psychological Services will host a free session, titled **“Men’s Self-Care, A Grooming and Health Guide,”** at noon Wednesday in Cortez Hall 118 on the Brownsville campus. The males-only session will take place the second Wednesday of every month. For more information, call 882-3897.

Game Room tournaments

A **Texas Hold’em Poker Tournament** will take place Tuesday and an **Air Hockey Tournament** is scheduled Feb. 17 in the Student Union Game Room on the Edinburg campus. Both are scheduled from 3 to 5 p.m. VBucks will be awarded to top-place finishers. For more information, call 665-7989.

Adviser Workshop Series

“Leading Diverse Groups” will take place from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. Friday in Main Building room 1.502 on the Brownsville campus. The session is part of the **Adviser Workshop Series** sponsored by the **Office of Student Involvement**. For more information, call 882-5111.

International Scholarship

The **Office of International Programs and Partnerships** is accepting applications for the **International Education Fee Scholarship**. Applicants must be enrolled at UTRGV during the term of the study abroad program as a degree-seeking student, with a minimum of 12 credit hours as an undergraduate or a minimum of six credit hours as a graduate student. Undergraduate applicants must have a grade-point average of at least a 2.5 and graduate students must have a GPA of at least 3.0. The deadline to apply is Friday. For more information, call 882-8955 in Brownsville or 665-3572 in Edinburg.

Window Painting Contest

All student organizations in good standing are invited to participate in the **Window Painting Contest** from Feb. 15 to 20 in the Student Union

on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

UTRGV Theatre Alumni reunion

The **UTRGV Theatre Department** will host a reunion of theatre alumni March 6 in Edinburg. Former students, faculty and fans are invited to a full day of reunion activities, starting with a reunion lunch, attendance at the 7:30 p.m. performance of **“The Miracle Worker”** and culminating with after play parties. For more information, email **Elva Galvan**, UTRGV theatre manager, at elva.galvan@utrgv.edu.

Entrepreneurship summer program

The **University of Texas System** is accepting applications from students in all 14 institutions for the **Student Entrepreneurship Fellowship**, a five-week summer program from May 31 to July 1 at the **IC2 Institute** in Austin. The fellowship offers 20 two-person student teams the opportunity to learn from nationally recognized faculty, instructors and facilitators, and will utilize evidence-based entrepreneurship methodologies to test their business concepts. The deadline to apply for the tuition-free training program is March 14. Early admission is Feb. 29. Students may apply at www.ic2.utexas.edu/sef. For more information, email IC2 Program Manager **Aprille Raabe** at SEF@lc2.utexas.edu or call **Ken Ma** in the University Affiliates Department at (512)499-4778.

Looking for volunteers

The **Cameron County Children’s Advocacy Center** is looking for volunteers for its San Benito and Brownsville locations. The center is a nonprofit organization that advocates for and serves child victims of abuse. For more information, call **Elsa Garcia**, volunteer coordinator/community educator, at 361-3313.

Graduation application deadlines

Students who plan to graduate in Fall 2016 must submit their application by May 1. For more information, contact the **Graduate College** at 665-3661 or email gradcollege@utrgv.edu.

--Compiled by Monica Gudiño

Have an announcement?
Call us at 882-5143 or 665-2541

some friends and consumed alcohol. She suffers from epilepsy and he believes the alcohol triggered an episode.

February 1

1:19 a.m.: University Police responded to a parent looking for his son who he believed was staying at his girlfriend’s apartment in the Casa Bella student housing complex on the Brownsville campus. The officers made contact with the resident assistant on duty who identified the female resident with the girlfriend’s name. The son was then found asleep in the all-female apartment. He was issued a criminal trespass warning, then left with his dad.

5:17 p.m.: A light fixture in front of the University Library on the Brownsville campus was seen emitting smoke. Officers made sure the area was made safe with caution tape. A UTRGV electrician evaluated the light fixture and found it to have a faulty ballast. He said he was going to repair it the next day.

--Compiled by Andrea Torres

Bailey to present tuition plan to regents Wednesday

2 percent increase would affect incoming freshmen and graduate students

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR IN CHIEF

If approved Wednesday by the UT System board of regents, Rebekah DeAnda, a Brownsville Hanna High School senior, will pay a total academic cost of \$3,723.56 per semester, when she enters UTRGV in Fall 2016.

“It’s not a lot but it’s still something,” DeAnda said last Thursday. “That money could have gone to my books or other things that I’ll need for school.”

The total academic cost (TAC) for new undergraduates would increase from \$3,650.36 to \$3,723.56 in Fall 2016 and to \$3,797.96 in Fall 2017. The TAC for new graduate students entering next fall would increase from \$3,248.87 to \$3,303.77 per semester and up to \$3,359.50 in Fall 2017.

“We will be requesting a 2 percent tuition increase for the entering freshmen class in the Fall of 2016 and then another 2 percent increase for the entering class in the Fall of 2017,” said Martin Baylor, vice president of Finance and Administration and co-chair of the UTRGV Academic Cost Committee.

On Oct. 2, the UT System board of regents authorized UT institutions to present proposals for increases to tuition and fees for Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018.



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

Guy Bailey

The recommendations may include an increase of 2 percent per year to account for escalation of costs on campuses for salaries, technology, infrastructure and

other expenses, according to a UT System news release.

Students who entered UTRGV in Fall 2015 have guaranteed tuition depending on their semester credit hours. Additionally, the university capped tuition at 12 hours for undergraduates, meaning any semester credit hours over that amount would be free.

Entering freshmen will also have the 12-hour-capped tuition and fixed rates for four years. New graduate students will have fixed rates for two years.

The estimated net revenue in year one is \$518,212 and for year two, \$1,634,218. “[The UTRGV Academic Cost Committee] wanted to expand in course offering, program offering. [We] wanted more student employment opportunities ... as well as increase the faculty, at that point, that are currently teaching,” Baylor said about how the revenue will be distributed. “So, we had to focus on those kinds of things [and] what it would take then to fund those kind of activities as well as, you know, keeping the whole cost structure in mind.”

In early December, the committee recommended a 3 percent per year increase in the resident undergraduate total academic cost.

Baylor said that after several discussions

with Bailey, the recommendation was changed to 2 percent.

“Our recommendation was for 3 percent,” he said. “Through our conversation with Dr. Bailey, you know, he decided to recommend a 2 percent [tuition increase] for the board.”

Computer engineering senior Scott Mercer said he would like to see UTRGV use the revenue for campus improvements.

“[The university should] build better facilities, redo some of the buildings around campus or just upgrade a lot more,” Mercer said. “More jobs on campus will be better. More opportunities for [students] to pay for their school would be a lot better.”

Baylor said the committee focused on providing a low-cost education to students.

“The committee worked really hard in putting this proposal together for Dr. Bailey, working through that and really discussed a lot of the issues that are centered around the cost of education and the importance of keeping, you know, that cost of education as low as we possibly can,” Baylor said. “That was really a very important element in all of our committee discussions.”

So you think you are in love?

UTRGV Counseling Center to educate students on unhealthy relationships



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Trisha Maldonado
THE RIDER

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Counseling Center is partnering with Mujeres Unidas to present the outreach event, “Love Doesn’t Have to Hurt.”

The event will take place Tuesday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus and from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Main Courtyard on the Brownsville campus.

Julissa Gonzalez, counseling specialist II at the university Counseling Center in Edinburg, said her ultimate goal is to bring awareness to students on healthy and unhealthy relationships.

“We will be providing information about our center, information on healthy relationships and domestic violence,” Gonzalez said. “Mujeres Unidas, the Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention Program, and Delta Xi Nu sorority will be assisting us, too, providing pamphlets.”

Maria Alejandra Mazariegos, counseling specialist II on the Brownsville campus, said the aim of the campaign is to “help people realize that domestic

violence and abusive relationships don’t just mean physical hitting and physical bruising.”

“It can be if your partner is insulting you, putting you down or calls you names, prevents you from being who you want to be, all those things are cheating on you constantly and that’s what we want students to know,” Mazariegos said. “Love doesn’t have to hurt and it shouldn’t hurt.”

She said signs of an unhealthy relationship are not just physical. There are emotional and psychological aspects too, that can be abusive and oftentimes cause much more long-term harm.

English senior John Martinez encourages students to attend the event.

“It’s important to learn that nowadays a lot people aren’t aware of it in the way they should be. I’ve actually seen domestic violence,” Martinez said. “I think it’s something people should be interested in attending. You can be prepared for it just in case it happens. I would recommend students to go get information.”

See LOVE, Page 5

Firing up for Homecoming

Midnight Prowl to kick off activities



COURTESY PHOTO

Students from UTRGV legacy institution UT Pan American dance at the 2014 Homecoming Tailgate party.

Rick R. Ramirez
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Office of Student Involvement and the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics will host several events on both campuses beginning Sunday to celebrate Homecoming Week.

Cindy Mata-Vasquez, director of Student Activities, said the weeklong celebration will consist of several first-time activities, including the first event, Midnight Prowl, which will take place on Sunday, from 4 to 10 p.m. in Edinburg and 10 p.m. to midnight in Brownsville.

“We want to invite our students and student organizations to come out and decorate the campus to get it ready for the week,” Mata-Vasquez said. “We have been authorized to paint some of the windows here at the [Student] Union, so we are going to assign them to different student organizations.”

The Tip-off Party will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 15 on both campuses. The Student Union will provide free food and activities will include live music, a photo booth and a tattoo booth. Students can join in the

festivities in the Main Courtyard on the Brownsville campus and on the Chapel of the Lord’s Prayer lawn in Edinburg.

The Campus Programming Board will host comedian and musician Jon Raymond Fisher Feb. 15 at the Student Union Theater in Edinburg and Feb. 16 at the Main Courtyard in Brownsville. Both shows will start at 7 p.m.

“I got to see him in person at a conference in Oklahoma and he sings as part of his comedy act,” said Ixel De la Fuente, student program coordinator for the Campus Programming Board on the Brownsville campus and a senior exercise science major. “He’s really funny.”

UTRGV Fire Up will begin at 5 p.m. Feb. 19 on the Troxel lawn and Fieldhouse parking lot in Edinburg. The UTRGV Pep Band, cheer and dance team will perform and join a parade through the Edinburg campus. The event will conclude with the Lighting of the Letters.

De la Fuente said she would really want to go to the Lighting of the Letters.

“We do want to try and bus students from Brownsville to Edinburg,” Mata-Vasquez said. “We are going to be

See HOMECOMING, Page 5

Campus Q & A

What does love mean to you?



Lazaro Castro
Estudiante de segundo año de ingeniería

“El amor significa querer a alguien tanto que sientes que no puedes vivir sin ellos. Por ejemplo, cada vez que no estás con la persona que quieres, sientes que una parte de ti hace falta”.



Maegan Alaniz
Management and finance junior

“Love means always wanting to be around that person and them being happy makes you happy and also just forgiving them based on certain situations, like, if there was a situation where you had a huge fight and you just end up forgiving them because, well, they mean so much to you and you want to be around them all the time.”



Frida Gonzalez
Pre-med biology senior

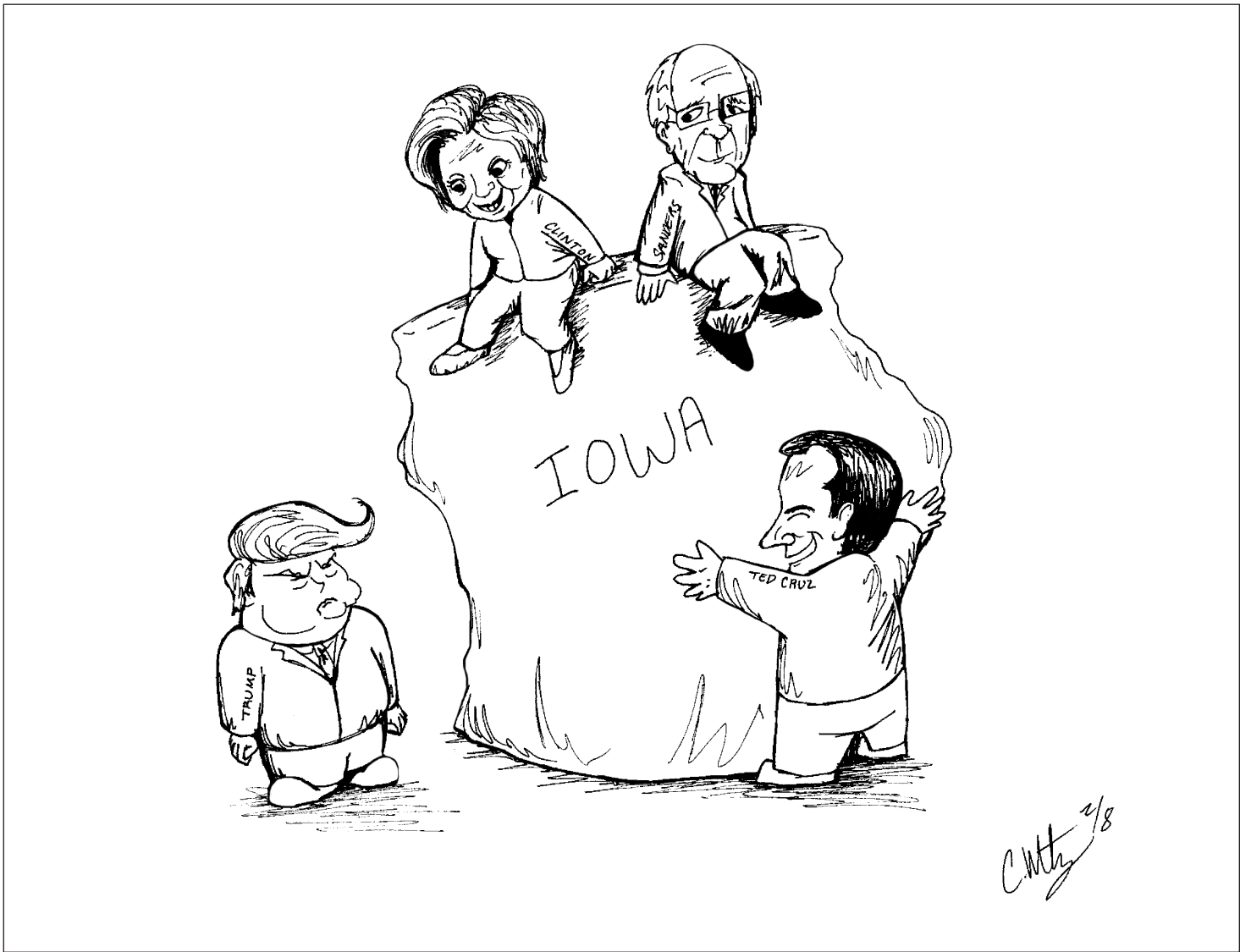
“Being comprehensive and caring for each other all the time.”



Edson Lara
Engineering junior

“Love is a decision, not a feeling.”

--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza and Lesley Robles



Felipe Zamorano
THE RIDER

For love to exist, most of us believe that certain things must occur.

When you love someone, be it a parent, a friend or a romantic partner, you decide to embrace their faults, those little things that you might otherwise hate. The good qualities your partner possesses greatly surpass what you don't like about him or her.

Loving someone means looking beyond what the rest of the world sees in that person. It means being absolutely comfortable with that person; simply

So you think you are in love?
Page 3

being by their side in silence is more than enough.

You are willing to protect the person you love from any harm. You will prevent anything that may harm them, physical

Love for oneself

or emotional, from ever reaching them.

Whatever preconceived notions you have of love, they always involve some other person.

Many of us see love as something you give and receive. For love to exist there must be at least two people involved, right?

Someone is to be the object of our affection and we are to be the object of someone else's affection.

But - - what if you just leave one person in the equation? What if everything that love involves occurred only within that individual?

While many of us may be able to love, adore or revere someone else, some find it extremely difficult to feel that internally. To some it might even seem impossible; we are, after all, our own worst critics.

As your own worst critic, you may believe you are not at the level you should be. You may believe you have failed to meet the expectations the world had for you, and that you are simply mediocre.

While others may praise or even admire you for being who you are, it is difficult to always agree with them. You may think of how you are still messing up, that they might just be lying.

It is difficult to avoid filling your mind with negative thoughts, thinking how you must change to be better, but not in a

positive or constructive way.

You may see your faults and dislike yourself because of them. You may be afraid of being by yourself because you have no idea how to enjoy it. You may put yourself in harm's way, associate yourself with the wrong people, or set yourself up to be hurt.

“But--what if you just leave one person in the equation? What if everything that love involves occurred only within that individual?”

Being able to truly love someone, including ourselves, requires maturity, courage and in some cases

sacrifice.

Just like you would with someone you love, you must accept your faults and recognize that perfection is impossible. You must enjoy your own company. You must be able to protect yourself from people and instances that may hurt you.

In the words of novelist Roderick Thorpe, “We have to learn to be our own best friends because we fall too easily into the trap of being our own worst enemies.”

Love yourself and you will realize what love truly means.



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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Pacesetters

Student organizations sponsor Blue Ribbon and ‘Run Away with Me’ 5K races

Monica Gudiño
THE RIDER

UT Rio Grande Valley organizations will host two races this month, the Blue Ribbon 5K Run/Walk and “Run Away with Me.”

The American Marketing Association-Edinburg will host the Blue Ribbon 5K Run/Walk at 8 a.m. Feb. 20 in the Edinburg Municipal Park, 714 S. Raul Longoria Rd.

AMA-Edinburg has teamed up with the RGV Diabetes Association to raise awareness of the disease.

“We needed to find a local organization that is actually giving back to the community,” said Jolene Arellano, president of AMA-Edinburg. “We felt that as a marketing organization we can always help promote other nonprofit organizations and increase the cause of awareness; in this case, it’s diabetes.”

Proceeds from the event will go to the RGV Diabetes Association.

“We need to raise awareness, definitely for diabetes, and that we need to maintain a healthy lifestyle,” Arellano said.

Early registration is \$20 for adults, \$25 for an adult with a child and \$10 for children between the ages of 13 and 17. Registration forms are also available in BUSA room 215 on the Edinburg campus.

“We don’t really see health as a priority for us and maintaining fitness,” Arellano said. “We want the community to know and we want them to benefit also.”

For more information, contact Arellano at (512) 785-0145 or email jolene.arellano01@utrgv.edu.

‘Run Away with Me’

The Exercise Science Club at UTRGV will host the “Run Away with Me” 5K and 1-mile run/walk fundraiser at 7 a.m. Feb. 20 outside the Main Building on the Brownsville campus.

“It is an event that can promote the physical activity of the community because this event is going to be a race in couples,” said Sigifredo Zavala, race coordinator. “So, what we want with this event is to promote the physical activity in family or couples in relationships.”

Early registration is \$30 and late registration is \$35. To register online, visit www.raceentry.com/races/run-away-with-me-/2016/register.

Zavala said he hopes participants will encourage others who are not as active to join the race.

“That’s what we want as a club, to help the community to have a physical, healthy style,” he said.

Medals will be awarded to the first 100 couples to finish the race. The top three couples in each division will receive



COURTESY PHOTO

Ricardo Parra and Ianelli Guerra jog together in preparation for the “Run Away with Me” 5K and 1-mile run/walk.

prizes and all children who participate will receive medals.

For more information, call 336-8941

or email Zavala at sigifredo.zavala01@utrgv.edu.

Rehab Services faculty meet Brownsville students



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Bruce Reed, a professor in the School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling, speaks to the audience about courses now being offered on the Brownsville campus. Reed made the presentation during last Wednesday’s Meet the Faculty event in the Student Union’s Gran Salón.

Monica Gudiño
THE RIDER

The Rehabilitation Services and Counseling staff introduced themselves to UTRGV students on the Brownsville campus last Wednesday.

Since September of last year, the program, which is based in Edinburg, has offered classes in Brownsville. Although there are only three professors in Brownsville, online classes are offered and shuttle services are provided to transport students to classes on the Edinburg campus.

“Our program is new to campus here,” said Antonio Aguirre Jr., clinical instructor for the School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling. “We want to make sure that the students know that even though we are new to campus, that they have the support of the entire program and faculty, including the faculty in Edinburg.”

Bruce Reed, a professor and director in the School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling, said the faculty care about students and about helping to prepare them to be professionals.

Among the faculty and staff who attended the event were Charlene Blankenship, Jaime Lopez, Fidencio Mercado, Jerry Fisher, Elizabeth Palacios and

Mary Ann Rocha.

The bachelor’s degree in Rehabilitation Services has three different tracks that students can choose; general rehab, addiction studies, and deaf and hard of hearing.

“It was super interesting meeting all the faculty. I’m really excited, I’m a rehab major, so I think it’s great. I’m really glad that it’s here,” said Summer Soto, a rehabilitation services and counseling junior.

During the event Amparo Jaramillo, academic adviser, and Steve Wilder, assistant director of Disability Services, received awards of excellence for the help and support they brought to the program.

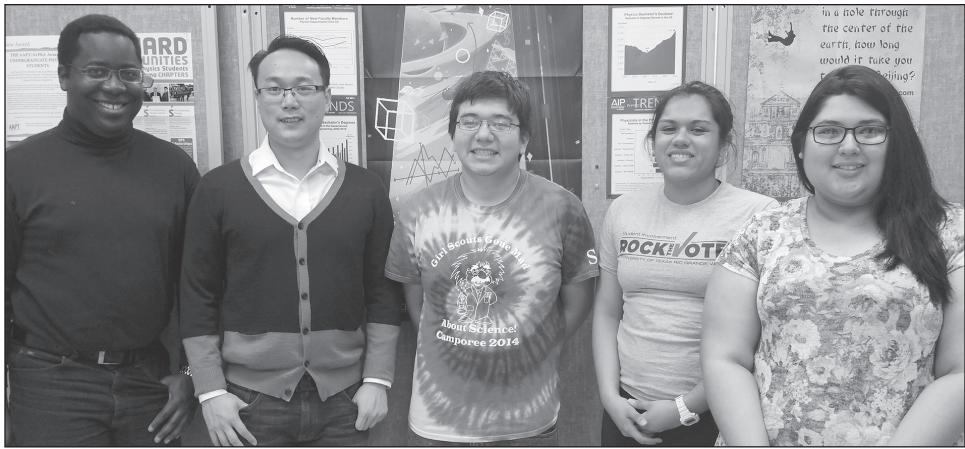
The Rehab South Club of UTRGV gave a presentation on what their association does.

“I think it’s a great idea for the students to get involved with [faculty],” said Melissa Vallejo, president of the student organization. “It’s a really good career. You get to interact with other students; the classes are very interesting.”

Reed said the department hopes to offer all of the courses on the Brownsville campus within the next year or two.

“A student could get their major without having to come to Edinburg unless they choose to,” he said.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Society of Physics Students include Wahltn Andre Rattray (from left), Jing Luo, President Daniel Casas, Kayla Marie Maya and Secretary Cindy Ybarra.

Name: Society of Physics Students-Brownsville

Purpose: To endorse the study and promotion of physics for the benefit of students at UTRGV; to advocate ethics and professionalism among all members of the society of physics students at UTRGV; and to teach the community the importance of science in the field of physics.

President: Daniel Casas

Vice President: Michael De Anda

Secretary and Treasurer: Cindy Ybarra

Junior Adviser: Wahltn Andre Rattray

Adviser: Joey Shapiro Key, director of education and outreach for the Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy.

Activities: RiSA (Rio Grande Science and Arts Festival), community days and outreaches.

Meetings: 1 p.m. Tuesdays in Rusteberg Hall 205

For more information email: sps.utrgv.president@gmail.com

--Compiled by Monica Gudiño

HOMECOMING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

handing out glow sticks and body paint. We are definitely excited to go out there and for the first time, light the UTRGV letters.”

On Feb. 20, the Homecoming Tailgate party will take place at 5 p.m. at the Fieldhouse parking lot in Edinburg. Departments, students, faculty and campus community are invited to participate in the BBQ cook-off. Immediately following the tailgate, the UTRGV Men’s Basketball Team faces off against the California State University Bakersfield Roadrunners.



LOVE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Nursing senior Ana Reyna agrees that this topic should be discussed more in the community.

“It’s something that doesn’t really get spoken around here,” Reyna said. “I guess because it’s taboo, so it’s good for it to be in the open. People should know about it because they should feel like they are not the only ones who have gone through it. It’s realistic and it’s happening and they should be aware of it and should not be afraid to talk about it.”

Gonzalez said the tabling event is open to everyone.

“We’re going to have Valentine candy, blank Valentine cards, as well, so students can fill out and give them to their significant other, and fruit-infused water,” she said.

For more information or special accommodations, call the UTRGV Counseling Center at 665-2574.



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CELEBRATING VALENTINE'S DAY





STUDENT FEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The **Student Fee Advisory Committee** (SFAC) advises the university president on the allocation of the student services fee in accordance with Texas Education Code Sec. 54.503.

SFAC will begin review of fiscal year 2017 budget proposals

Friday, Feb. 12, 2016
2:00—4:00 p.m.

Research and Innovation Room (REIN) 1.102—Edinburg
Meetings are open to the campus community.

Upcoming Meetings

- Friday, Feb. 19 REIN 1.102—Edinburg
- Friday, Feb. 26 Cortez 118—Brownsville

If you require special accommodations, please call (956) 665-2147. For more information, go to www.utrgv.edu/sfac.

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Innovación en el Valle

Nueva asociación con Weslaco establece el camino para el desarrollo económico

Felipe Zamorano
THE RIDER

UTRGV, la ciudad de Weslaco y la Corporación de Desarrollo Económico de Weslaco han firmado un acuerdo para re-desarrollar un edificio que albergará el Centro de Innovación y Comercialización y una nueva incubadora de negocios de la universidad.

“Esperamos que este centro será un laboratorio para los estudiantes que quieran aprender algo sobre el emprendedurismo,” dijo Mark Kroll, decano de la Facultad de Negocios y Emprendedurismo. “El propósito de esto es ayudar a nuevos proyectos a desarrollar un modelo de negocios”.

Como parte del acuerdo, la ciudad de Weslaco proveerá un edificio ubicado en 257 S. Kansas Ave. que albergará el CIC, actualmente basado en las oficinas de la Asociación del Valle de Río Grande (Río Grande Valley Partnership). La CDE de Weslaco proveerá \$1.3 millones para la renovación del espacio de oficina, y la universidad será la encargada de las operaciones del día a día.

“Una vez que las instalaciones estén en marcha, queremos crear un esquema de mercadotecnia que va a atraer nuevos negocios que quieran invertir en la comunidad por esto”, dijo Joey Treviño, director ejecutivo de la CDE de Weslaco.

Adicionalmente, los tres asociados aplicarán para fondos de subvenciones en conjunto para cubrir los demás gastos, según el memorándum de entendimiento



CORTESÍA DE LA CORPORACIÓN DE DESARROLLO ECONÓMICO DE WESLACO

Una representación del nuevo edificio del centro de Innovación y Comercialización de UTRGV en Weslaco.

entre las tres entidades.

La ubicación en Weslaco le proveerá una ventaja geográfica a este esfuerzo.

“Está en la mitad del Valle, así que es algo estratégico ... está centralmente ubicado”, dijo Kroll. También mencionó el espacio bien ubicado y la voluntad de la ciudad y la CDE para ayudar a re-desarrollar la propiedad.

“Yo creo que Weslaco tiene una comunidad de negocios muy dinámica”,

dijo Treviño.

El CIC fue establecido en el 2012 por la institución legado de UTRGV, UT Brownsville, con la ayuda de una subvención federal de la Administración de Desarrollo Económico.

“Somos un recurso para estudiantes o profesores que quieran comercializar ideas o productos, pero también somos un recurso para compañías dentro de nuestra comunidad y región que quieran hacer lo mismo”, dijo Laurie Simmons,

la gerente del Centro de Innovación y Comercialización. “Nuestra misión en el centro es desarrollar las habilidades emprendedoras de los estudiantes al igual que ayudar en el desarrollo económico del Valle”.

Los equipos de estudiantes y profesores trabajan basándose en las necesidades de una empresa en particular, Simmons dijo. Ellos ayudan a la compañía a desarrollar un modelo de negocio para poder ayudar a decidir si desean seguir adelante con la idea o el producto.

En el futuro, el CIC espera agregar nuevos servicios y capacidades.

“Lo que va a cambiar en el futuro es que estos equipos ... también tendrán mentores”, Simmons dijo. “Será más como un enfoque de tres vertientes”.

Se espera que al trabajar con los equipos involucrando a académicos y mentores con habilidades y conocimiento en diferentes campos, los negocios que trabajen con el centro obtendrán experiencia profesional y del mundo real. Estos equipos tendrán la habilidad de conducir análisis de mercado e industria, desarrollar perfiles corporativos competitivos, evaluar estrategias de mercado y crear modelos financieros para así elaborar modelos de negocio sustentables, dijo Simmons.

En adición a los recursos provistos por el CIC, el desarrollo de la Red Ángel del Valle del Río Grande, inversionistas que proveerán financiamiento para las

Vea ACUERDO, Página 10

Chocolate bar



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Accounting sophomore Ryan Montero gets his cup of hot chocolate Feb. 1 in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus during the Vaquero Hot Chocolate Bar. Student Union employees served free cups of hot chocolate along with scoops of ice cream and crumbled cookies. A similar event will take place Feb. 29 on the Brownsville campus.

BREAK-IN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

University Police since Sunday.

“They haven’t replaced the windows, yet. They haven’t replaced the doors, so they just put wood over everything,” Ostman said.

Asked what additional precautions University Police asked them to take, Ostman responded, “They haven’t really told us anything, other than to just keep an up-to-date inventory with serial numbers because there really is nothing we could have done to prevent it. Everything was locked in here. We got very fortunate, most of our valuable stuff is in a steel cage and they couldn’t get into that. So, I mean, we did everything right. We secured everything.”

UTRGV Police reminds the campus community members to always lock their doors when leaving their office or apartment. Make sure all windows are

locked and report suspicious people immediately.

“On our end, we do have active patrols going, you know, patrolling around. So does TSC,” Munguia said. “However, if some of the community does happen to be out there and, for example, we do have some faculty [that stay] working very late ... the part of the community that happens to be around, you know, if they see something that’s suspicious or that doesn’t look quite right, don’t hesitate to call us because we’re here.”

University Police can be reached at 882-8232 in Brownsville/Harlingen or 665-7151 in Edinburg.

-- Jesus Sanchez contributed to this report.

Visit us at
utrgvrider.com

Drink to your health

Ana Cahuiche
THE RIDER

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day but as college students we sometimes don’t give it the importance we should.

“On average, breakfast skippers snack more often, eat more sugary, high-fat snacks, drink more soda, are more likely to overeat at night, and are more often overweight or obese than breakfast eaters,” according to an article by Tracey Neithercott on the American Diabetes Association website.

Here are two fast and rich-flavored smoothies you might want to try as healthy alternatives.

Berry Oatmeal Smoothie

- 1 banana
- 12 frozen strawberries
- ½ cup rolled oats
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 cup almond milk, unsweetened or whole, soy or coconut milk

Sweetener options:

- Raw honey (2 tsp.)
- Stevia (1 packet)
- Sugar (1½ tsp.)

Add about 12-16 almonds or ½ cup of



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER PHOTOS

plain Greek yogurt for extra protein and flavor.

Substitute strawberries with raspberries and milk for orange juice for a whole new smoothie.



Taking the lead

New College of Fine Arts Dean starts March 1

Andrea Torres
THE RIDER

Steven Block has traveled more than 900 miles, from New Mexico to the Rio Grande Valley, since the announcement that he will lead one of the 10 colleges at UTRGV.

Block, former chair of the music department at the University of New Mexico, will begin his appointment as dean of the College of Fine Arts on March 1.

“What I bring is the energy and desire to build programs in the same way--similar way--that I build them in New Mexico,” Block said. “By hiring really fine faculty with new ideas and new energy, we’re going to bring what we do best into greater relief, you know, in the Valley. ... That’s the heart of everything, to build what we already have here and to bring that out further into the world.”

During his 16-year career at New Mexico, Block said he helped the department increase enrollment from 170 to more than 400 music majors at the institution.

“Because of those 16 years [at New Mexico], part of me was looking for new challenges,” he said. “Not just working for a music program but for arts in general.”

Block graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a doctorate in composition and theory and a master’s in composition from the University of Iowa.

Among the programs he helped create at New Mexico is the Arts-in-Medicine program, which “engages people in their own healing process through creative encounters involving music, poetry, meditation, yoga and others,” according to the program’s website.

Asked if he is thinking of creating a similar program at UTRGV, now that the university will have a School of Medicine that is scheduled to open this summer, Block replied: “I would love to--I haven’t had a chance to meet the dean there but I understand, again secondhand, that he’s very positive about the idea. The people I know in the field, I’m sure I can get them to come in and present and talk about how it can be used and this is the perfect location.”

One of the programs Block is planning to expand at UTRGV is Patron of the Arts.

“The Patron of the Arts program, as it exists, is and was a fine program,” he said. “I’m looking at ways to build that up



ANDREA TORRES/THE RIDER

Baritone Daniel Hunter-Holly performs “Gefrorne Tränen (Frozen Tears)” from Franz Schubert’s song cycle, Winterreise D. 11, Thursday night in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center. The concert was part of the Patron of the Arts Faculty Artist Series. Hunter-Holly and his accompanist Juan Pablo Andrade are associate professors of music at UTRGV.

further, to make it more prominent and selective than it already is.”

The Patron of the Arts was created 31 years ago under UT Brownsville, a legacy institution of UTRGV.

“Patron of the Arts is the performance and membership series of the [UTRGV] School of Music,” said Catherine Compton, Patron of the Arts program coordinator. “It includes student ensembles, faculty artists and guest artists who come to campus and perform for the community.”

As part of the program, the UTRGV Ballet Folklorico will showcase the first of its six performances at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 12 in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

In Brownsville, Nicole Asel, a mezzo-soprano, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 19 in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center.

“Over the last three decades it’s been

expanding and the membership base has been growing in this area,” Compton said. “This is the first year that it’s been expanded to include Edinburg as well.”

Admission to the concerts is \$5 for students, \$10 for non-students and \$20 for a season pass.

“I encourage faculty and staff and students to take advantage of the

concerts that we have,” Compton said. “We have two beautiful venues. ... Both of these places are wonderful to be able to hear this beautiful music and I think it’s a great opportunity to feel more connected to the campus.”

For more information on upcoming events, visit www.facebook.com/utrgvpatron.



Happy Valentine’s Day from all of us at The Rider
By Clarissa Martinez

VALLEY TOONS



CASE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Students are encouraged to consult with Student Rights and Responsibilities staff to discuss the options available to the student in filing a complaint. A student may choose to proceed using either the informal resolution process or the formal process to resolve their complaint.

Douglas Stoves, associate dean of students for Student Rights and Responsibilities, said every complaint received by

the SRR office is taken seriously.

“With all of our cases, whenever we get a case or a complaint in, we start to engage on an investigative process,” Stoves said. “Sometimes that resides with our office; sometimes it gets referred to another office to do the investigation. Regardless of how a complaint comes in ... we start looking into any complaint that comes into our office. How it ultimately gets resolved has a lot of different factors in it.”

ACUERDO

CONTINUACION DE PAGINA 8

compañías que trabajan con el centro, está en camino.

“Somos una organización de alrededor de 17 miembros, y esperamos tener 40 miembros para el final del año”, dijo Simmons.

Kroll dijo que los proyectos serán presentados a la comunidad inversionista participante y ellos tomarán la decisión sobre si querrán o no financiarlos.

Pese a que los nombres de sus miembros no son publicados para respetar su privacidad, estos son profesionistas a lo largo del Valle de Río Grande que son inversionistas acreditados con un valor neto mínimo de \$1 millón, excluyendo a su hogar, o que tienen un ingreso anual de \$250,000 individualmente o \$300,000 como familia u hogar.

En años recientes, la efectividad de las miles de incubadoras ubicadas a lo largo del país ha sido puesta en duda. Yas Motoyama, director de investigación y política en la Fundación

Kauffman, que se enfoca en educación y emprendedurismo, y su asistente de investigación Emily Fetsch, concluyeron después de revisar más de 35 artículos académicos que más investigación es necesaria para determinar si los negocios incubados superan a sus contrapartes no incubadas.

Al ser cuestionado sobre los hallazgos de la investigación, Treviño dijo que él piensa que la dinámica entre la CDE de Weslaco y UTRGV va a crear una mejor oportunidad de éxito ya que, basándose en su investigación, la mayoría de la incubadoras no están asociadas con instituciones de educación superior.

“No tomaremos a quien sea”, dijo Simmons. “Estamos buscando a compañías que sean escalables, que puedan crecer y producir trabajos, y que tengan algún tipo de tecnología disruptiva”.

Cualquier estudiante, profesor, o negocio o emprendedor local interesado en trabajar con el CIC puede contactar a Simmons al correo laurie.simmons@utrgv.edu o puede llamar al 357-0167.

FORUM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

During a congressional election, not many people vote during the general elections. However, there should be an increase in voters during the primaries, but because this region is characterized by low income and low education--which are the two highest predictors for not voting--there may not be much of an increase, Saavedra said.

PYD Historian Marlon Monayao hopes to encourage locals and students alike to vote in this upcoming election.

“The people who are running for this position are not running for a local position and I think people find that hard to comprehend,” the chemistry major said. “These people are running for a place in the White House. These people will be speaking for us, not on a local regime, but in a place where incredibly important and incredibly powerful people are present.”

One UTRGV senior who is looking forward to the forum is Ameera Khan.

This is her chance to get a good idea of who can potentially be representing not only her, but also her friends and community. Khan believes that to make change happen, locals need to be informed before they vote.

“I want to attend the forum because it’s a chance to really understand the policies and mindset of the candidates because so far, it seems like many people only know about the presidential election,” the pre-med biology major said. “However, in order for a government to actually work, people need to focus on general [and] local elections. These elections will affect our lives, whereas ... presidential elections is pretty much all bureaucratic and inefficient.”

The forum will feature six confirmed candidates: Democrats Juan “Sonny” Palacios Jr., Vicente Gonzalez, Rance “Randy” Sweeten and Joel Quintanilla; Vanessa Tijerina of the Green Party; and Republican Ruben O. Villarreal. The primary election will be held March 1 and the general election for the new congressman will be Nov. 8.

PARTNERSHIP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kansas Ave. that will house the CIC, currently based in the offices of the Rio Grande Valley Partnership. The Weslaco EDC will provide \$1.3 million for the renovation of the office space, and the university will be in charge of the day-to-day operations.

“Once we have the facility up and running, we want to create a marketing scheme that’s going to attract new businesses that want to invest in this community because of this,” said Joey Treviño, executive director of the Weslaco EDC.

Additionally, the three partners will jointly apply for grant funds to cover the remaining costs, according to the memorandum of understanding among the three entities.

The location in Weslaco will provide a geographical advantage for this endeavor.

“It’s sort of in the mid-Valley, so it’s sort of strategic ... it’s centrally located,” Kroll said. He also mentioned the well-located space and the willingness of the city and the EDC to help redevelop the property.

“I believe [Weslaco has] a very dynamic business community,” Treviño said.

The CIC was established in 2012 by UTRGV legacy institution UT Brownsville with the help of a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

“We’re a resource for students or faculty that want to commercialize ideas or products, but we’re also a resource for companies within our community and region that would like [do the same],” said Laurie Simmons, the manager of the Center for Innovation and Commercialization. “Our mission at the center is to develop an entrepreneurial skill set for the students as well as to help economic development in the Valley.”

Teams of students and faculty work based on the needs of a particular company, Simmons said. They help the company build a business model canvas in order to help them decide if they wish to move on with their idea or product.

In the future, the CIC hopes to add new services and capabilities.

“What’s going to change in the future is that with these teams ... we’re also going to have mentors,” Simmons said. “It’s going to be more of a three-pronged approach.”

Expectations are that by working with teams involving academics and mentors with abilities and knowledge in different

fields, businesses that work with the center will obtain professional and real world experience. These teams will be able to conduct market and industry analyses, develop competitive company profiles, evaluate go-to market strategies and build financial models in order to build sustainable business models, Simmons said.

In addition to the resources provided by the CIC, the development of the Rio Grande Valley Angel Network, investors who will provide financing for the companies working with the center, underway.

“We’re an organization of about 17 members, [and] we hope to have 40 members by the end of the year,” Simmons said.

Kroll said projects will be presented to the participating investment community and they will make a decision as to whether or not they want to finance it.

Although the names of its members are not made public in order to respect their privacy, they are professionals throughout the Rio Grande Valley who are accredited investors with a minimum net worth of \$1 million, excluding their household, or who have a yearly income of \$250,000 individually or \$300,000 as a family or household.

In recent years, the effectiveness of the thousands of incubators located across the country has been placed in doubt. Yas Motoyama, director of research and policy at the Kauffman Foundation, which focuses on education and entrepreneurship, and his research assistant Emily Fetsch, concluded after reviewing more than 35 academic articles that more research is needed to determine whether incubated businesses outperform their unincubated counterparts.

Asked about the research findings, Treviño said he thinks that the dynamic between the Weslaco EDC and UTRGV is going to create a better opportunity for success since, based on his research, most incubators have not partnered with a higher education institution.

“We’re not just going to take anybody,” Simmons said. “We’re looking for companies that are scalable, that can grow and produce jobs, and have some disruptive technology.”

Any students, faculty or local businesses and entrepreneurs interested in working with the CIC can contact Laurie Simmons at laurie.simmons@utrgv.edu or may call her at 357-0167.

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Countdown to first pitch

UTRGV baseball prepping for opener

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

The grass is freshly cut and if you listen close enough walking down Schunior Road you can hear the ping of aluminum bats making contact with balls from the Edinburg Baseball Stadium.

As the calendar turns to February, the start of UTRGV baseball looms closer. The team’s first action is a four-game set in West Texas to face Abilene Christian University beginning Feb. 19.

Coach Manny Mantrana is set to start his seventh season as bench boss of the baseball program. The roster is different, as it is every year, for the former minor league baseball player that is now a veteran of college coaching.

This year’s group of student-athletes consists of 16 returning players, 10 true freshmen and six transfers. One player that Mantrana hopes to count on in a big way is senior outfielder Cole Loncar.

Loncar, who joined last season as a transfer student, has already earned preseason first-team Madness All-Western Athletic Conference accolades. The recognition, given by College Sports Madness, highlights players to watch in conference around the country. In the 2015 season, Loncar hit for a .348 batting average, with 12 doubles, two triples and three home runs.

The senior from the state of Washington wants to just take the recognition in stride and continue to help the team.

“I don’t feel any extra pressure or anything like that, just wanna keep playing my game and helping my team,” said Loncar, the 6-foot, right-handed batter. “I try to just lead by example and do my best for the team. I just want to leave the legacy of ‘That guy came out every day and worked hard. He gave everything he had.’”

Coach Mantrana gave high praise to his centerfielder, who started all 52 games in the 2015 season.

“Cole exemplifies the kind of player that we would like in the program,” the head coach said. “Terrific player, great teammate and outstanding student, just last semester a 4.0. Offensively, I think we’re a little bit better than I thought we were [going to] be.”

He went on to list upperclassmen that he feels will be a big part of that offense. The hitters will try to raise the .267 batting average that the team hit last year, which scored 288 runs compared to 322 runs allowed.

On the flip side of that equation, pitching will need to do its part to make sure the Vaqueros score more runs than give up.



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Senior centerfielder Cole Loncar throws a ball during practice Feb. 1 at the Edinburg Baseball Stadium. Loncar was named to the preseason Madness All-Western Athletic Conference first team.

The average ERA (earned run average) of the three UTPA pitchers with at least 10 starts in 2015 was 4.85. The entire pitching staff’s average was 5.41, while those pitching against UTPA’s lineup had a 4.67 ERA.

Mantrana said the competition for starting pitcher positions are wide open leading up to their first games.

“In your mind, after the fall you start to place them in different roles,” the Miami, Fla., native said. “We have some guys that we know are going to be pretty good. What role they are going to play as practices go into the spring, we can get those cemented.”

He also said he would not be afraid to give a big spot, whether it be offensively or defensively, to one of the 10 freshmen new to the team and to college baseball.

“With us, if a freshman, we feel, is better than a sophomore, junior or senior, we’re gonna play that freshman,” Mantrana said.

An example of this mindset to play talented underclassmen is Robert Quinonez, a sophomore pitcher, who started 10 games as a freshman. The graduate from Calallen High School in Corpus Christi is one of those who is fighting to get important innings for this year’s team.

“A key is to keep working hard every day,” the 6-foot-3-inch business major said. “You got to accept the role you get either way, but one way you can get to that weekend [starter] spot is by going out every weekend when we have intersquad and throw strikes. It starts with your mental toughness; you can’t put your head down when things go wrong.”

Quinonez will hope to be one of those counted at the start of the season all the way into WAC season opening day.

UTRGV will start its season Feb. 19 at Abilene Christian University. Its first action in front of the home crowd will be Feb. 25 against Pac-12 opponents Washington State University to kick off the Al Ogletree Classic.



Catcher Jacob Huckabay warms up with a throw to first base during baseball practice Feb. 1 at the Edinburg Baseball Stadium. The redshirt junior has been a part of the baseball program since 2013.

Home Games

Basketball

Saturday, Feb. 13

**Women’s Basketball
vs. Missouri-
Kansas City**

1 p.m.

UTRGV Fieldhouse

MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

<i>Basketball Stats</i>	
Men	
Points	
Shaquille Hines	14.3
Antonio Green	12.2
Dakota Slaughter	11.7
Rebounds	
Shaquille Hines	6.0
Dan Kimasa	6.0
Dakota Slaughter	4.4
Assists	
J.J. Thompson	5.0
Antonio Green	2.9
Shaquille Hines	2.7
Women	
Points	
Shawnte' Goff	14.4
Mary Savoy	11.7
Anushka Maldonado	9.4
Rebounds	
Mary Savory	10.5
Rickell Preston	6.7
Anushka Maldonado	6.7
Assists	
Shawnte' Goff	3.4
Rickell Preston	2.3
Anushka Maldonado	1.5
stats compiled from goutrgv.edu	

MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

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