



Mr. Amigo 2015

Starting a new tradition

UT Rio Grande Valley
hosts first Charreada,
honors Mr. Amigo 2015

Andrea Torres
THE RIDER

Bringing love and poetry into your life and avoiding negative thoughts was the message Mr. Amigo 2015, Itati Cantoral, gave to the campus community when she appeared during the Charreada last Thursday on the Brownsville campus.

“Get drunk on love and poetry. Walk away from absurd thinking and you can reach success and generate self-confidence,” Cantoral said, reciting a Spanish poem written by her father, the late Mexican composer, Roberto Cantoral. “Plant lilies of peace although there is mud.”

The university honored Cantoral, a Mexican actress, singer and dancer, who is known for her roles in Mexican soap operas, such as “Hasta que el dinero nos separe” (2009). She received a basket with university memorabilia, a bouquet of flowers and an official 2016 Charro Days framed poster.

Each year, Brownsville’s Mr. Amigo Association recognizes a Mexican citizen who promotes goodwill between the United States and Mexico. The title carries the previous year because early in its history, the association used to recognize the honoree in October.

Mariachi Aztlán and Grupo Folklórico Tizatlán de UTRGV performed at the event on stage outside the Student Union.

UTRGV Provost Havidán Rodríguez welcomed the crowd of about 200 and explained the importance of having the Charreada continue the tradition that started at UT Brownsville.

“Our legacy institution, UT Brownsville, has hosted these festivities for many years,” Rodríguez said. “In fact, the campus has been one of the first stops for Mr. Amigo.”

The provost said honoring traditions of our legacy institutions is important, and the university is “proud to be part of this wonderful tradition.”

UTRGV President Guy Bailey also spoke at the celebration.

“Today we celebrate that friendship, those traditions and the strong collaborations we have with Mexico,” Bailey said. “These are exciting times for UTRGV.”

Among the guests at the celebration were Brownsville Mayor Tony Martinez, Brownsville City Commissioner At-Large “A” Cesar De Leon and Texas Secretary of State Carlos Cascos, a former Cameron County judge who was also the official parade marshal at the parades held Friday and Saturday in downtown Brownsville as part of the Charro Days Fiesta that began Feb. 21.

See AMIGO, Page 6

Super Tuesday is here!

Professor says millennials a key factor in vote

Trisha Maldonado
THE RIDER

Nearly 60,000 people in Hidalgo and Cameron counties have voted ahead of Tuesday’s primary, officials say.

“As of Wednesday, our raw figures for Democrats were under 30,000 and for Republicans, it’s 5,338,” said Hidalgo County Elections Administrator Yvonne Ramon, who noted the numbers were unofficial. “When early voting finished in 2012, 38,693 Democrats and 4,026 Republicans voted.”

As of press time Thursday, 33,786 Democrats and 6,573 Republicans had voted. There are 317,677 registered voters in the county.

“My hope is that Hidalgo County goes out and makes new record-breaking percentages,” Ramon said.

“Fort Bend County is always a county that is very high in turnout and totaled together for Democrats and Republicans,” Ramon said. “And Hidalgo

County is 10 percent on in-person early votes.”

Early voting ended last Friday.

Cameron County Elections Administrator Remi Garza said the county has about 180,000 registered voters.

“They are higher than the 2014 presidential election numbers,” Garza said about the number of registered voters. “In fact, they are keeping on pace with the 2008 primaries.”

He said the Democratic Party

Campus Q&A,

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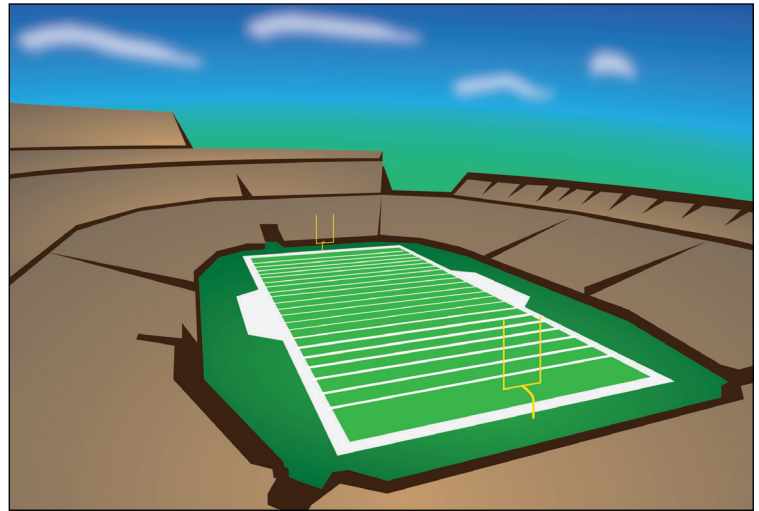
had one of the highest turnouts for the primaries in 2008.

“They had 22,000 on that election. We are already almost 10,000,” Garza said. “The Republicans had one of their best early voting turnouts in 2012. They had about 2,800 in that year and they are already at 2,400.”

As of press time Thursday, See POLITICS, Page 10

The fate of football

UTRGV to examine feasibility of sport



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

On Feb. 19, UTRGV announced a football feasibility study that serves to gauge community interest, fiscal estimates and information about starting an interscholastic football program.

The announcement from the university’s athletics department stated that a study

will take place to determine specifics and then report to a feasibility committee. Former University of Texas Head Coach and current ESPN/ABC Analyst Mack Brown was named chair of the committee. Also serving on the committee will be student, faculty, staff and community leaders and representatives.

College football in the Rio

See FOOTBALL, Page 10

YOU'RE INVITED

Student Union (El Comedor) Taste Fair

Brownsville Campus
Wednesday, March 9, 2016
1:30 pm-3:30 pm

Free Food & Giveaways



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Stay Tuned for our next event
"All You Can Eat Nugget Event"
March 23rd 4 pm-6 pm
(Edinburg Student Union)

Money distribution



Ena Capucion
NEWS EDITOR

SFAC discusses budget presentations

The Student Fees Advisory Committee met for the second time Feb. 19 on the Edinburg campus in REIN 1.102.

The SFAC meets annually to provide guidance to UT Rio Grande Valley President Guy Bailey on allocating the student service fees for Fiscal Year 2016 and 2017.

Representatives from eight departments and sections delivered their proposals to the SFAC. These included the athletics department and shuttle services requesting a portion of money from the student fees budget to be allocated to their specified area.

Athletics Director Chris King was the first to present to the committee. In the past year, the athletics department has invested in scholarships for athletes participating in men's and women's soccer. The department has added 750 additional bleacher seats and outdoor lights to the UTRGV Soccer Track & Field Complex and will expand its television broadcast through Time Warner Sports in the near future. From private funding, the painting of the baseball stadium will be completed by the end of May. King requested funding for scholarships, salaries for staff and travel expenses. He spoke highly of the university's athletes for their hard work and their success.

"We call [ourselves] one team-one culture, 16 sport programs, 11 head coaches, 47 staff and 267 student athletes," King said. "Our process, our mission, our vision, our values, our expectations and beliefs, our short- and long-term planning and it's our purpose [to prepare] our student athletes for excellence in life from the time we recruit to the time they graduate. That's who we are."

Rodney Gomez, director of Parking



ENA CAPUCION/THE RIDER

Student Fees Advisory Committee Chair Michelle Alvarado listens to budget presentations during the Feb. 19 meeting in REIN 1.102 on the Edinburg campus.

and Transportation, and Roberto Cantu, executive director of Auxiliary Bus Services, presented on behalf of the parking and transportation services department. Gomez and Cantu had two requests, a one-time expense of four new shuttle buses and six bus passenger shelters. Another request was for the support of ongoing operational expenses such as drivers' salaries, maintenance costs, fuel and three new potential

programs that have an estimated cost of about \$1 million.

"We ask for a specific number based on what we've gotten in terms of historical expenses and what we foresee—we've gotten estimates and quotes, for example, the car share program," Gomez said. "We've done some research on how much it would cost, so I think we have a firm number."

Based on the transportation survey

faculty and staff took last fall, about 32 percent of students do not own a reliable vehicle and about 35 percent need transportation from their home to the campus closest to them. To address this issue, Gomez and Cantu proposed three new programs: the van pool, the car share and the rideshare.

The van pool will allow students, who don't have a ride from home to campus,

See FEES, Page 10

Preventing financial default

University aims to help students better manage loans and personal finances

Rick R. Ramirez
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Communication senior Valentin Treviño owes \$27,000 in student loans and will not graduate until Fall 2016. He is expected to obtain an additional \$7,000 in loans before his graduation.

Immediately following his graduation, Treviño plans to work in construction with his father, so that he can quickly earn money to help pay for his loans. He has been granted both subsidized and unsubsidized loans.

"I want to pay them off as soon as possible so I can get ahead and not have to worry about that extra weight on my shoulders," Treviño said. "If I didn't owe as much in student loans, I would be looking for a career with my bachelor's degree instead of construction."

He is one of 9,057 undergraduates who have obtained student loans for the 2015-2016 academic year.

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley legacy institution UT Brownsville started a student money management center that helped students with their finances and loan debt. The program began the year before the consolidation with UT Pan American.

"We haven't transferred, transitioned it over to UTRGV. It is something that's in the works. It's an idea we definitely want to implement," Financial Aid Coordinator Felipe Olivarez said. "As of right now, it doesn't actually exist."

Olivarez said that UTRGV officials

want to incorporate a similar program for students inquiring information about controlling their finances.

"We want to actually create a money management center ... where students can actually visit to ask any questions they may have," he said.

The center would help students check their credit score, establish new lines of credit, manage debt and create a budget.

Terrance Martin, an assistant professor of finance in the College of Business and Entrepreneurship, helps students improve their credit score and personal finances. Martin used to offer a Life and Money course at UTPA.

"I've had students that take my classes, ask me personal questions about either [their] own finances or their family's finances. I make myself available for that," Martin said by telephone from Lubbock, where he was attending a convention. "I would be happy to speak with them and give them advice, and it would be confidential. But, my goal is to start a program. I'm here at Texas Tech [University] to, hopefully, learn the best practices, so we could institute something like that at UTRGV."

Martin and Olivarez are members of a committee known as the Default Prevention Task Force, whose prime focus is to implement ideas to help students borrow responsibly.

Financial aid comes in many forms. These include federal grants, subsidized loans, unsubsidized loans and parent plus loans. Students can also apply for

scholarships, which do not affect their credit. The federal government pays for interest accrued on subsidized loans while a student is enrolled, but not for unsubsidized loans. There is a fixed interest rate of 4.9 percent for subsidized and unsubsidized student loans. These loans do not depend on creditworthiness but are dependent on the student's eligibility after submitting their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

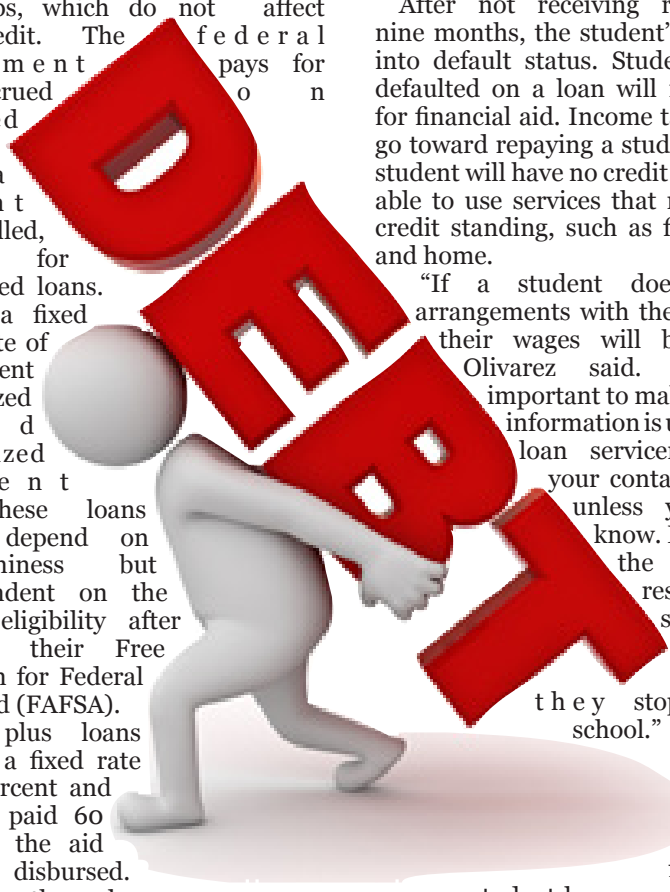
Parent plus loans are set at a fixed rate of 6.84 percent and are to be paid 60 days after the aid has been disbursed. Interest on these loans accrues even if the student is enrolled. Repayments for parent plus loans are the responsibility of the parent. Failure to repay any federal student loans may result in default.

After not receiving repayment for nine months, the student's account goes into default status. Students who have defaulted on a loan will not be eligible for financial aid. Income tax refunds will go toward repaying a student's loan. The student will have no credit and will not be able to use services that require a good credit standing, such as financing a car and home.

"If a student does not make arrangements with the loan servicer, their wages will be garnished," Olivarez said. "It is very important to make sure contact information is up to date. Your loan servicer won't have your contact information unless you let them know. It is technically the student's responsibility to start making payments six months after they stop attending school."

Students with questions regarding personal finances and student loans may email Martin at terrance.martin@utrgv.edu.

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Campus Q & A

Who do you think millennials are voting for and why?



“Well, I think most millennials are progressive and those candidates are Hillary and Bernie, but there seems to be a lot of growing support for Bernie Sanders. I think maybe because his issues are related around young people and what he can do for them.”

Robert Mendoza
Biology junior



“I think many people are voting for Hillary Clinton because she is feminist and a lot of people want, like what she’s doing, especially girls. She goes for women’s rights and also, like, for example, wage, like, how we want women to be paid equally like men, so I think that’s very important. And she was also, I think, secretary of state, I believe she was, and she did a really great job, so many people think she’s ready to be president of the United States.”

Yoselin Manzanares
Nursing freshman



“Personalmente yo creo que los jóvenes hoy en día, especialmente nosotros que estamos en la escuela, van a votar más por Hillary Clinton por que ella está haciendo más para ayudar a los estudiantes como en lo de financial aid y loans. Gente que está en la escuela y tratando de mejorar su futuro creo que están más inclinados a votar por los demócratas”.

Yessenia Gonzalez
Estudiante de teatro, televisión y cine de segundo año



“I believe millennials would vote for Bernie Sanders because millennials are blinded by the way he talks about free tuition, which is clearly very popular with today’s millennials.”

Noe Garcia
Criminal justice freshman

--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza and Lesley Robles

And the winner of the primaries is . . .



Jesus Esparza
THE RIDER

Several issues have sprung up during the opening of UTRGV. As for myself, I only have one big concern, the shortage of classes.

I have seen how the number of classes has remained, basically, the same while the number of students has increased.

Other issues are parking and transportation. As more and more students across the Valley swarm to both campuses, this strains the overall parking capacity.

Transportation is being resolved, as more buses are being added to transport students to and from the various campuses. I feel that the main proponents of merging both campuses were unaware of all the problems that would arise after the transition was complete.

Then there’s political science Lecturer Cecilia Sandoval, who was paid late

Growing pains for UTRGV

for teaching an overload course, which caused a social media uproar.

Some students have complained that they received their financial aid refunds late and tuition has increased overall. Even as the number of students increased, many professors were

not hired, and there is a shortage of professors in various fields. Another subject is the changing of traditions for both universities. I talked to fellow UTRGV student Nahiely Garcia, and she brought up the fact that although Homecoming was celebrated, there was no royal court.

“It really saddens me there was no royalty this homecoming, especially being the first one for UTRGV,” said Garcia, who was last year’s homecoming queen. It will take dedication from administrators to resolve the transition issues of both campuses, which had

strong traditions that will be molded into one university. And the problems that have popped up in regard to the payment of professors and the shortage of classes at both campuses will be a burden during the first years of the university. Still, most of the burden will be on the students, who have seen in the first two semesters how the issues have caused a major concern, and hope they will be solved as quickly as possible.


“Most of the burden will be on the students, who have seen in the first two semesters how the issues have caused a major concern, and hope they will be solved as quickly as possible.”

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Creando puentes, no muros



MARIO GONZALEZ/FOTOS RIDER

Mr. Amigo 2015 Itatí Cantoral saluda a la audiencia el jueves pasado durante la ceremonia de “El Encuentro Binacional”, que celebra la amistad entre Brownsville y su ciudad hermana al otro lado del Río Bravo, Matamoros, Tamaulipas, México.

Monica Gudiño

THE RIDER

Por 79 años consecutivos las ciudades de Brownsville, Texas, y Matamoros, Tamaulipas, México, han celebrado su hermandad durante la ceremonia de “El Encuentro Binacional” en el Puente Internacional Gateway.

El jueves pasado la famosa actriz de telenovelas Itatí Cantoral dijo que el evento “es un momento de amor”.

Cantoral, quien fue honrada como Mr. Amigo 2015, estuvo entre los dignatarios celebrando los lazos comunes de las

ciudades separadas por el Río Bravo.

“Este es un momento de amor, es un momento de amistad, es un momento de paz, donde como es verdad no hay muros, solamente hay fronteras. Todos somos hermanos, todo es un mismo corazón”, dijo Cantoral.

Cantoral también recitó el poema “La Amistad” que escribió su padre Roberto Cantoral, el famoso cantante y compositor que fue Mr. Amigo en el año 1981.

El evento, que es parte de la celebración Charro Days Fiesta en Brownsville, dio



Actor de telenovelas y conductor de televisión Mark Tacher se presenta ante la audiencia durante la ceremonia de “El Encuentro Binacional”. Tacher fue seleccionado como “Huésped distinguido” en las Fiestas Mexicanas de Matamoros.



Richard Zayas (izquierda) y Emilio Antonio Galvan intercambian una bandera estadounidense y una mexicana durante la ceremonia de “El Encuentro Binacional”.

inicio alrededor de las 10 a.m. a donde llegó Cantoral acompañada de su madre, Itatí Zucchi, una actriz argentina de descendencia italiana.

El actor de telenovelas Mark Tacher, huésped distinguido de la ciudad de Matamoros durante las Fiestas Mexicanas, asistió también al evento.

Vestidos con típicas cueras tamaulipecas y trajes tradicionales, funcionarios de Brownsville y Matamoros asistieron al evento donde acompañaron a los actores de telenovelas.

“Necesitamos que este evento continúe cargando la misma unión de las palabras de amistad entre dos naciones que esperamos nos traiga gran satisfacción y gran orgullo para tratar de lograr, en una pequeña manera, algo tan especial no solo para mi familia pero para los grandes ciudadanos de Brownsville”, dijo Bob Torres Jr., ex-presidente de la asociación de Mr. Amigo.

Estudiantes de la escuela Ricardo Flores Magón dirigieron la escolta a la bandera mexicana al sonar de las trompetas por la Banda de Música Municipal, quienes mismos tocaron la versión instrumental del Himno Nacional Mexicano.

Después se presentaron los colores de la bandera de Estados Unidos al público portados por los oficiales del departamento de policía de Brownsville.

Esto dio inicio a su himno nacional “The Star-Spangled Banner” que fue interpretado por Jessica Lustenberger intérprete vocal graduada de la University of Texas at Brownsville.

“Es una experiencia maravillosa poder compartir estos momentos aquí en el puente”, dijo Lustenberger. “He venido cada año desde que era chiquita y es una experiencia muy bonita”.

El intercambio de banderas que se regalan como signos de amistad y hermandad de las dos ciudades fueron intercambiadas por niños de escuelas de Brownsville y Matamoros.

Los regalos de los niños de Matamoros fueron muñecas y juguetes típicos del

país y los niños de Brownsville dieron bolsas con pequeños regalos, junto con una réplica pequeña de los respectivos países.

Los funcionarios de ambas ciudades siguieron con los intercambios de regalos.

“Remarcamos la historia de amistad y de amor que une a Brownsville y Matamoros, dos ciudades de ejemplos para muchas fronteras por la estrecha concordancia que fomentamos”, dijo Leticia Salazar, la alcaldesa de Matamoros. “Tiene como referencia la capacidad que tuvieron nuestros antecesores para abrazar la idea de una relación sin fronteras”.

Así misma le obsequió a Tony Martínez, alcalde de Brownsville, un cuadro con el logo de la ciudad de Brownsville hecho de mosaico. También le regaló una bolsa de tradicional tamaulipeca a su esposa Carla, y a Itatí Cantoral y a Mark Tacher también les dieron cueras tamaulipecas.

“Este año las dos ciudades de Brownsville y Matamoros hicieron un compromiso para mejorar y ayudar a los demás, para avanzar y expandir, para generar mayores oportunidades para nuestra gente”, dijo Martínez. “Estas ciudades aunque divididas por una frontera geográfica común hizo un compromiso para construir familias más fuertes y continuar nuestros lazos de unidad”.

El alcalde de Brownsville le obsequió a Salazar una placa conmemorativa que decía en inglés, “Para reafirmar la amistad entre nuestras ciudades hermanas” (“*To reaffirm the friendship between our two sister cities*”). También le obsequió un chaleco de cuera tamaulipeca.

Entre los invitados en asistir el evento eran César de León, comisionado de la ciudad de Brownsville.

“Es bien importante porque tenemos ya muchos años de ser ciudades hermanas y esto nada más hace que los lazos se estrechen todavía más”, de León dijo.



El alcalde de Brownsville Tony Martínez le presenta a la alcaldesa de Matamoros Leticia Salazar una placa conmemorando los lazos de amistad entre las dos ciudades. La ceremonia se llevó a cabo en el puente internacional Gateway.

BIENVEN



AMIGO CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

UTB previously hosted a celebration in conjunction with Brownsville's Charro Days Fiesta where a golf cart parade would start the ceremony welcoming that year's Mr. Amigo.

However, this year it was more centered on the campus community, said Patricia Montemayor, program coordinator for UTRGV Student Involvement.

"We wanted to do a little bit different with UTRGV," Montemayor said. "We wanted to involve students and obviously faculty, staff and administration and have one big Charreada. One big party. We think the turnout was really, really well."

During and after the ceremony for Mr. Amigo, more than 20 student organizations and university departments sold a variety of food, including tamales, clotes and aguas frescas, and hosted activities, including "Meltdown," a Wipeout-style game, and a grito contest.

"Today we're selling tamal plates," said Maria Kaun, president of the International Student Organization. "We've been doing pretty good, we are almost done with all of our tamales. Our plan was to sell 100 plates, thinking we'd have some left but apparently we're not going to have any left."

The education major said her favorite part of the celebrations included the festive attire and culinary plates.

Throughout the week, Mr. Amigo was also honored at various functions. At the Wall of Fame ceremony last Wednesday in Linear Park, a metal star bearing her name was unveiled. Cantoral also took part in the Grand International Parade last Saturday on East Elizabeth Street.



Members of Grupo Folklórico Tizatán de UTRGV dance onstage outside the Student Union in front of a crowd of about 200 people during last Thursday's Charreada held on the Brownsville campus.



Brownsville Police Department officers hold the U.S. and the Texas at the Gateway International Bridge during the singing of the national

--Photos by Michelle Espinoza and Mario Gonzalez

NIDA, Itatí

UTRGV students compete in the "Meltdown," a Wipeout-style game, from Rental World during last Thursday's Charreada on the Student Union lawn. More than 20 student organizations and university departments sold a variety of food and hosted activities during the event.



The color guard of Matamoros' Colegio De La Salle posts the colors of the Mexican flag while the national anthem of Mexico is sung by Doris Vanessa Cedillo Clemente during UTRGV's Charreada last Thursday in Brownsville.



Mr. Amigo 2015 Itatí Cantoral (third from left) receives an official 2016 Charro Days framed poster along with a bouquet of flowers during the first annual Charreada last Thursday on the Brownsville campus. Presenting the gifts are Santa Estrella, co-director of Grupo Folklórico Tizatlán, and UTRGV Student Government Vice President Denisse Molina-Castro.



Members of the International Student Organization sell tamale plates to the public. The group sold about 100 tamale plates during the event.



flag last Thursday
onal anthem.



Soap opera actor and television host Mark Tacher receives a "cuera," a traditional Tamaulipas leather jacket, from Matamoros Mayor Leticia Salazar.

THE

RIDER

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FESTIBA 2016

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley will sponsor the **Festival of International Books and Arts (FESTIBA 2016)** today through Sunday on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses. This year's theme is **"Nuestras Raices,"** which celebrates the area's cultural roots and inspires the South Texas community to broaden its cultural awareness and appreciation of the arts at UTRGV. For a complete list of events, visit www.utrgv.edu/festiba.

Today: Lecturer **Monica Reyes** will discuss the various careers and applications of writing in the professional world from 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus.

Tuesday: Assistant Professor **Brian Warren** and Lecturer II **Marlene Galvan** will present an interactive workshop, titled **"Writing Plays for Young Audiences,"** from 11 a.m. to noon in ARHU 176 in Edinburg.

Wednesday: First Year Writing Instructor **Yemin Sanchez** and students will host a presentation, titled **"Designing Your Future by Handpicking Your Major,"** from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in ARHU 250 in Edinburg. Sanchez will share information with students, who are still undecided about the selection of their educational paths, regarding the factors influencing choosing a major and the benefits of planning critically when selecting a future profession.

Thursday: "Book Fair & Community Day" will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Main Courtyard on the Brownsville campus. This will be a market-style fair where authors and clubs can present and sell their works while students and community members can speak with the authors about the arts.

Friday: Faculty presenters **Trey Mikaolasky** and **Lawrence Gise** will host the **"UTRGV Student Film Festival"** from 4 to 6 p.m. in ARHU 107 on the Edinburg campus. The festival will consist of film scenes and projects from UTRGV student theater, television and film majors.

Saturday: Faculty presenter **Edna Ochoa** will conduct a creative writing workshop in Spanish, titled **"Taller de Escritura Creativa,"** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in ARHU 178 on the Edinburg campus. Ochoa will teach participants how to incorporate their own experiences into their writing.

Vaquero Ice Cream Bar

Ice cream will be served at 11 a.m. today on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus and at noon Wednesday in the Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call the **Student Union** at 665-7989.

Save RGV from LNG meeting

The **Save RGV from LNG group** will host a newcomer orientation at 6 p.m. and a business meeting at 6:30 p.m. today in the Galeria 409 Art Gallery, located at 409 E. 13th St. in downtown Brownsville. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/saveRGVfromLNG.

Game Room tournament

A **Billiards Tournament** will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. Tuesday in the Student Union Game Room on the Edinburg campus. VBucks will be awarded to top-place finishers. For more information, call 665-7989.

The Dating Doctor!

David Coleman, author of trending relationship books and inspiration for the film **"The Hitch,"** will host a workshop, titled **"Making Relationships Matter,"** at noon Wednesday in the PlainsCapital Bank Gran Salón at the Student Union on the Brownsville campus and at 7 p.m. the same day in the Student Union Theater on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7991 in Edinburg or 882-5111 in Brownsville.

Adviser Workshop Series

A session, titled **"Resilience Training,"** 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.

Nuts 4 Nutrition

The **Infant and Family Nutrition Agency** will host the sixth annual **Nuts 4 Nutrition 1 Mile Fun-Run/Walk and 5K Race** on Saturday in the Brownsville Sports Park. Race fees are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children, \$10 for adult group participants and \$8 for child group participants. To register, visit the agency's office at 1225 Boca Chica Blvd. in Brownsville, visit Rx Running at 3001 Pablo Kisel Blvd., Suite L, or visit ifnargv.org/n4n-registration. For additional information, call 541-9250 or email ifnargv@gmail.com.

UTRGV Theatre Alumni reunion

The **UTRGV Theatre Department** will host a reunion of theatre alumni Sunday 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.

The Gentleman's Code

Counseling and Psychological Services will host a free session, titled **"Fatherhood: Before & After Our**

Pregnancy," at noon March 9 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.

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 deadline is today. 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.

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.

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 clinics, located in Cortez Hall 237 on the Brownsville campus and at 613 N. Sugar Rd. on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call Office Assistant **Beverly Estrada** at 882-3896.

Meetings
Social-confidence group

The **UTRGV Counseling Center** hosts a social-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.

G.A.L.S.

A group therapy session for females by females, titled **"Growing and Loving Ourselves"** (G.A.L.S), takes place from noon to 1 p.m. each Monday in Cortez Hall 220 on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call the **UTRGV Counseling Center** at 882-3897.

LGBTQ Group

The **LGBTQ Group** meets at 4 p.m. each Tuesday in University Center 306A on the Edinburg campus. Meetings are facilitated by experienced counselors and discussion is driven by concerns and needs of the group. For more information, call the **UTRGV Counseling Center** at 665-2574.

--Compiled by Monica Gudiño



POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Feb. 19 and 23.



February 19

1:27 a.m.: University Police was informed about a male harassing a staff member. He had been driving a white Ford Raptor in parking Lots B3 and A1 and then followed the staff member, making verbal contact with her after being told not to contact her in any way. Officers conducted a patrol of the entire campus but his vehicle was not found. Officers are in the process of issuing a criminal trespass warning to the male.

9:59 a.m.: University Police made contact with a student's mother, who had a valid mental health warrant for the apprehension of her son. The student was located on campus and apprehended without incident. He was taken to Texas Tropical Behavioral Health where he was released into the care of clinical staff.

9:30 p.m.: A student driving a Nissan Versa backed out of a parking space in Lot Q2 and struck a Chevrolet Camaro driven by a staff member. There were no injuries reported and there was only minor damage to the Camaro.

February 20

3:54 a.m.: A group of five students, four of which are athletes, were found in Lot Q2 and stated that they had been drinking in McAllen earlier. When the officer asked them for identification, only one of the students was 21 years old. Officers could not detect the odor of an alcoholic beverage on any of the students, nor were they a

danger to themselves or others. A report was taken to document the student code of conduct violation.

11:30 a.m.: Emergency medical services were called to the Science Complex building where a student felt ill and had uncontrollable trembling. The student was taken to Edinburg Regional Hospital.

February 21

3:33 a.m.: Five students were found in an apartment at the Vaquero Village yelling and playing loud music. The students were cooperative and stated that they had been drinking earlier that night at a bar and at the Veranda Apartments but that there was no alcohol in the apartment. The housing coordinator walked into the common area of the apartment and stated that he did not see any alcohol in view. Three of the students were under age 21. A report of the incident was taken for referral to Student Rights and Responsibilities.

10:04 a.m.: University Police took a picture of red markings on the brick wall of the Visual Arts Building on the Edinburg campus. The paint marks read, "I Miss You" and a work order was placed to remove the paint.

February 22

1:55 p.m.: An athletics staff member reported baseball caps and jackets were stolen from the team's locker room. The staff member believes the theft occurred between Feb. 15 and 22. The loss is

estimated at \$1,400.

4:28 p.m.: University Police responded to a report of a student at the UTRGV Counseling Center having suicidal ideations. She was deemed a danger to herself and was transported to Texas Tropical Behavioral Center for screening. A crisis screener assessed the student and a three-day contract stay at Doctors Hospital at Renaissance was approved.

February 23

3:39 p.m.: University Police reported that smoke was coming out of a cigarette dispenser outside the University Library in Edinburg. The officer put out the fire with a fire extinguisher after reporting the top of the dispenser blew off and trash inside caught fire.

5:36 p.m.: University Police was dispatched to the Health Sciences West Building on the Edinburg campus where it was reported that a piece of cardboard caught fire. Staff members and students put out the fire, whose cause was unknown. A staff member reported that she saw a cigarette butt being blown away from the burned cardboard. The student who assisted with putting out the fire was transported to Doctors Hospital at Renaissance due to a round red mark he sustained on his left arm, which he said was caused by the fire.

--Compiled by Andrea Torres

Craft of the mentors

Art lecturers display a variety of work

Felipe Zamorano
THE RIDER

Instructors from the Visual Arts department showcased some of their work at the opening of the Faculty Art Exhibition last Tuesday in the gallery at Rusteberg Hall on the Brownsville campus.

The exhibition included the works of eight faculty members, and a painting by the late professor Carlos G. Gómez. The faculty members who participated in the exhibition were Lecturers Alejandro Macias, Noel Palmenez, Ruth Keitz, Felix Trejo, Stephen Hawks, Julian Rodriguez and Patrick Fatica.

Macias said that although every year the department hosts this exhibition, this year's would be different.

"Our painting instructor [Carlos G. Gómez], who had served the university for 30 years ... passed away early this semester," the lecturer said. "He devoted so much of his life to students, and to this school. He was larger than life."

As part of the exhibit, "Nocturnal Duet," a work by Gómez, was displayed. The abstract oil-on-canvas painting depicts a tree flanked by a set of two circles composed of multicolored rings.

Attended by more than 40 people, the event did not follow a theme, but rather the artists presented their individual style.

"It's just a mixture of artists," Macias said. "Each artist tends to have their own theme."

Hawks explained the importance of art and the exhibition.

"I like doing art, I see it as a necessary



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Alejandra Zertuche (from left), Leonardo Di Vincenzo and Rosa Zertuche take a moment to appreciate "Santa Tamales," an earthenware and acrylic sculpture, by UTRGV faculty artist Julian R. Rodriguez last Tuesday at the faculty art show in the Art Gallery at Rusteberg Hall in Brownsville.

thing," he said. "[It's] not just sort of [decoration], something added on to life."

Hawks expects his work to lead his students to become curious about his work, which, in turn, will make them

think and start generating ideas of their own.

"By producing work myself, that is at a certain level, sets an expectation for them," he said.

Hawks' work presented in the exhibit is part of an ongoing series, titled "Chymical Wedding." The three-vertically elongated organic shaped sculptures are painted red, yellow and black. They represent will, thought and feeling, and the interrelationship between them.

Most of the attendees were art majors seeking to learn something from the

work made by their instructors.

Fine arts freshman Christopher Martinez attended the opening in an effort to learn new techniques that he could apply to his work.

"It's one of the best ones I've seen so far," Martinez said. "It's amazing that it's from some of our instructors here at the university."

The purpose of the exhibit was to showcase university talent.

The exhibit continues through March 25. Admission is \$1 and student semester passes are \$3. For more information, call the Patron of the Arts at 882-7025.



UTRGV art Lecturer Stephen Hawks speaks with UT Brownsville graduate Ana Leon.



Art senior Jessie Burciaga (left) looks at "San Luminario," an earthenware and acrylic sculpture, by UTRGV faculty artist Julian R. Rodriguez.

A night of music



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Music education majors Marco Guzman (from left), Erick Serna, Andrea Garcia, Joe Guerra III and Dailly Garcia perform "Ambledance Polka" (three short movements for saxophone quartet) during a recital Wednesday night at the University Library on the Edinburg campus in honor of the late Carl Seale. Seale was a professor emeritus of music at the university for more than 30 years, contributing many works to the music department.

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FOOTBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Grande Valley has been absent from the area since the early ’50s. The last teams to compete at the college level were Edinburg Junior College and Texas Southmost College who both scrapped their programs in 1951.

The study will examine costs for starting a football program from the ground up.

The feasibility study

The study will examine details of bringing a football program such as cost of building a venue, recruiting players and offering scholarships. Consultants from the area and outside parties will gather information on all of these things before their four- to six-month study concludes and the results are passed along.

While no monetary figure can accurately be estimated yet, there are universities that have recently undergone feasibility studies. The first that comes to mind is UT San Antonio’s study in 2006. Georgia State also had a 2006 football study that resulted in the formation of a football program. The football programs at those two schools were inaugurated in 2011 and 2010, respectively.

The feasibility committee

“Anytime that you’re doing any type of study you’re going to want a broad range of constituent base and the student body, the faculty, the staff as well as the community members bring all different perspectives to the table,” said Athletics Director Chris King. “They bring the pros and the cons to starting a division 1 football program to the university so their voices definitely need to be heard.”

According to the news release, the members of the committee and the consulting group will be announced further down the road.

These individuals will attempt to raise as many concerns and questions as possible to ensure a thorough analysis of the situation.

The feasibility committee will take the four- to six-month study and then deliberate on the results. After the committee has done its task, it will turn its findings over to UTRGV President Guy Bailey.

The Expert

King, who has been at his position since 2009, said that reaching out to Brown was not too challenging since he is still associated with the University of Texas and the UT System.

“Dr. Bailey reached out to the Chancellor of the UT System [William McRaven]. The chancellor really is the individual who reached out to Mack Brown,” King said. “[Bailey] told him the importance of what we’re trying to do in looking at this potential to start football.”

Brown, who resigned from his position as Longhorn head football coach in 2013, is still involved with the system. During his tenure in Austin, from 1998-2013, the UT Longhorns won a national championship and also appeared in a second championship game.

“Our purpose is preparing our student-athletes from the time of recruitment until the time of graduation,” said King, who previously served as the University of Alabama’s associate director of Athletics. “Coach Brown understands what our purpose is. He understands the entire recruiting progress and the operations of a football program. He’s going to know and have relationships around the entire state of Texas. He brings the total package when you’re looking at somebody who has been a head coach not just at Texas but at other high division 1 institutions.”

Brown, who spends college football Saturdays on television analyzing games, is quoted in the news release.

“The opportunity to build a college football program from the ground up is unique and I’m excited to be involved in the process,” said Brown, a 64-year-old native of Tennessee. “I know there are many passionate football fans in the Rio Grande Valley and I can’t think of a better place to launch a college football program.”

Where to call home

One of the biggest question marks regarding the creation of a high-level

college football program is the stadium that the team will call home. This hurdle provides the biggest monetary challenge when starting up a program. When UTRGV compares its feasibility study with the ones done at Georgia State and UTSA, a major difference to consider is those two institutions already had huge stadiums to play in. UTSA did not need to build the Alamodome and Georgia State did not need to construct the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

King said the consultants in the feasibility study will examine different options for hosting a UTRGV stadium. Different costs for each option would also be factored in.

“Part of that will be looking at other institutions that have been similar in nature,” King said. “Whether it’s an on-campus facility or an off-campus facility, they’ll show us ‘here’s what it costs at X institution to build on campus compared to off campus.’ That gives us at least a ballpark figure of what we would take a look at. Or what would a city, if they wanted to step up and build a stadium, what it may cost the city to do that.”

Another option that may be considered is the use of existing high school stadiums in the Valley possibly going through renovations to accommodate the college game.

Bobby Lackey Stadium in Weslaco currently seats 15,000, while McAllen Memorial Stadium seats 13,500.

Campus reaction to the study

Students weighed in on the announcement about football being considered at UTRGV.

Certain students were enthusiastic about the possibility of football coming to Deep South Texas at the college level.

“I think that it was one of the best things that UTRGV has thought about. There isn’t a lot of Vaquero pride, yet,” said Leonel Garza, a freshman chemistry and biology double-major. “I feel that bringing a football team will not [only] bring student pride, it will also bring a lot of revenue in. I assume it’s going to take a lot of money, but hopefully it will be worth it. I have a bunch of high school football friends that didn’t come to the university just because they didn’t have a football team and those guys are dedicated to their education. I feel like UTRGV missed out with that.”

Unlike Garza, biology senior David Hernandez highlighted concerns and was critical of the university going down this path.

“I am against this feasibility study and against a football program. The only way I’d support a football program is if athletics could fund it solely on their own through donations and self-funding,” Hernandez said. “I would like to know how much money they are paying Brown and where it is coming from. I would say football is unnecessary itself.”

The athletics director did recognize that football cannot be valued above the financial security of the university.

“At the end of the day we’re not going to put ourselves in a situation where we’re going to put anyone in debt and/or this university over a football program,” King said.

More information will be solidified when the feasibility study is completed in a few months. From there the process to determine if this is a wise step for UTRGV can be made. Until then, people on both sides will have plenty of time to let their excitement or anxiety build as the push for football in the Rio Grande Valley begins.

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POLITICS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

13,975 Democrats and 4,022 Republicans had voted in Cameron County. He expects to get anywhere between 25,000 and 28,000 people to vote.

Mark Kaswan, a political science assistant professor on the Brownsville campus, explained Texas’ role in Super Tuesday.

“In the primary election, each party is conducting a separate election to choose the person who will be the eventual nominee of the party in the general election,” Kaswan said. “Super Tuesday is a day in the primary calendar when a lot of states all have their primaries in the same day.”

Kaswan said it will be difficult for Bernie Sanders to beat Hillary Clinton.

“Clinton has an advantage for the Democrats,” Kaswan said. “For the Republicans, a lot of people are saying that [Donald] Trump has a strong advantage. I remain unconvinced. I still don’t think that Trump will win the nomination. I think [Marco] Rubio has a fairly good chance. We still have a long way to go. Things could change substantially.”

On Tuesday, primaries will be held in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont and Virginia. Caucuses will be conducted in Alaska, Colorado, Minnesota and Wyoming (Republican only).

“Texas is the largest state of all the states that are voting on Super Tuesday,” Kaswan said. “Texas awards the largest number of both Democratic and Republican delegates. ... The outcome of each primary determines the number of delegates that each candidate will receive going into the national Republican and Democratic conventions, which will be held this summer.”

Jerry Polinard, a political science professor on the Edinburg campus, said Super Tuesday is also called SEC, or Southeastern Conference, because most of the states are Southern states.

“After Super Tuesday there will be a baby Super Tuesday where the parties begin to shift to ‘winner-take-all’, which means if you get the most votes in your state, you get all the delegates,” Polinard said.

Asked who will win the presidency, Polinard replied, it has been almost 30 years since the party in power won three consecutive presidential elections. Ronald Reagan won the presidency in 1980 and 1984, followed by fellow Republican George H.W. Bush in 1988.

He said it will be an uphill battle for Hillary Clinton to win.

“It does make a difference in who the

FEES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

a means of transportation. The car share will allow students to rent a car for a certain amount of time. The rideshare will be an Uberlike service, where students in an area can request a car ride. Once placed in operation, the three transportation services may charge a small fee to the participants.

“I think if we were not to get the funding, we will continue to operate and we might not be able to keep up with the increased demand of transportation,” Cantu said. “Students are really showing a lot of interest and a lot of participation, so we might not be able to keep up with that. Right now, the way that the proposal is built, we are trying to anticipate future growth as well. Based on the trends that we’ve seen, there will definitely be a need for an expansion.”

Last fall, about 5,500 students used the Vaquero Express Campus Connector to commute from Edinburg to Brownsville and vice versa. This semester, Gomez and Cantu have estimated the numbers will increase to about 22,000 students.

Republicans nominate,” Polinard said. “She has got to clearly run not so much a third Obama term but she has to take advantage of, look where we were in 2008 in the economy, crashing and everything. We created jobs [for] 40 straight months etc. Fill in the blanks, all the achievements of the Obama presidency, she has got to say these are positive things we want to keep.”

He said the Republican establishment is trying to get somebody besides Trump nominated. They are afraid that if Trump is nominated, the real conservative voters won’t vote.

“They won’t vote for Clinton but they won’t vote for Trump,” Polinard said.

Other factors are the recent death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, because whoever wins gets control of the court, and the millennial voters.

“It is going to be you guys, that is the millennial vote,” Polinard said. “Sanders has galvanized that. He’s doing very well with the 18-to-28-year-old vote. Trump is doing surprisingly well with the young vote. The other side, Clinton is focusing on you all now like razors.”

Nursing junior DeAngela Gonzalez said she has not voted, yet, but plans to. She advises other students to look up what the voting process is and who is running.

“I know a lot of young people don’t vote and I think we should because it would make a big difference,” Gonzalez said. “Since we do live in the Valley and it is a minority, I think we do need younger people to vote, so that we can get represented.”

Mechanical engineering senior Michael Winarto said students should exercise their right to vote.

“It’s one of your rights as an American citizen to vote and you should definitely use it,” Winarto said, “And if you have and see a candidate you like, their influence, and you want that change, support them by voting.”

Voters in both counties will also be selecting party nominees for local positions. In Hidalgo County, voters will be casting ballots for state district judges, sheriff, county commissioner, county court-at-law judges and constables, among others.

Cameron County voters will select nominees for county judge, sheriff, district attorney, county commissioner and constables, among others.

For information on precinct locations in Hidalgo County, visit <https://tx-hidalgocounty.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=105> or call 318-2570.

For information on precinct locations in Cameron County, visit http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/administration/elections_voter_registration/index.php or call 544-0809.

With UTRGV’s continued growth, the numbers will only increase.

“I really feel that this transportation system that we’ve built ... is really essential to being able to provide the students the services that they need,” Cantu said. “I think [Gomez], during the presentation, noted that you can have all the best services in the world, but if you don’t have the transportation to get the people that need those services to and from where they need to be, then it does no good.”

SFAC Chair Michelle Alvarado had a closed session soon after the presentations finished. During this time, Alvarado and nine other voting members focused on Fiscal Year 2016 one-time requests.

“The majority of the requests that came in are for the next fiscal year and so we have a timeline or a date where all those proposals are due,” Alvarado said. “But there’s also opportunities for the partners to request a one-time funding.”

A similar SFAC meeting was held last Friday on the Brownsville campus.

The committee will then hold a closed session from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday.

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CLUB SPOTLIGHT



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Members of the Society for Human Resource Management are Event Planner Coordinator Rebeca Rodriguez (front row from left), Historian Yulissa Guerrero, Treasurer Victoria Alvarez, Director of Public Relations Iridiana Garcia, Advertising Officer Angelica Alonzo and Secretary Tavana Nino. Back row: Treasurer Eric Rodriguez, Director of Corporate Relations Trisha Maldonado, President Patricio Mendoza, Jacqueline Salinas and Vice President Luis Segundo.

Name: Society For Human Resource Management

Purpose: The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) was founded in 1948 by a group of 28 individuals. These founding members anticipated the need for a national organization to represent the personnel profession. Their goal was to provide continued professional development opportunities, promote national networking and to generally advance the interests of a profession they recognized as being in transition.

Mission: SHRM serves the needs of the human resource management profession by providing the most essential and comprehensive set of resources available. In addition, the society is committed to advancing the human resource profession and the capabilities of all human resource professionals to ensure that HR is an essential and effective partner in developing and executing organizational strategy.

President: Patricio Mendoza

Vice President: Luis Segundo

Secretary: Tavana Nino

Treasurers: Victoria Alvarez and Eric Rodriguez

Director of Corporate Relations: Trisha Maldonado

Director of Public Relations: Iridiana Garcia

Event Planner Coordinator: Rebeca Rodriguez

Advertising Officer: Angelica Alonzo

Historian: Yulissa Guerrero

Adviser: Management Lecturer Marco Garza

Activities: Participates in university sponsored activities and provides community service opportunities for members. Guest speakers at general meetings provide insight on different topics of expertise or programs they represent.

Awards: University of Texas Pan American Philanthropic Spirit, 2014; Tribute to Success Dean's Award, 2011-2012; and Bronc Olympics Homecoming, 2012.

Meetings: 12:15 to 1 p.m. Tuesdays in BUSA Room 111 in Edinburg.

Membership requirements: Students must be enrolled in the current semester and be pursuing a bachelor's degree. Members are to pay the set membership of \$30.

Contact information: Email Mendoza at patricio.mendoza01@utrgv.edu

National SHRM website: www.shrm.org

SHRM at UTRGV website: www.shrmutrgv.webs.com

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--Compiled by Lesley Robles

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