



Campus incidents lead to 1 arrest; 1 subject still at large

University Police respond to assaults on female students

Andrea Torres
THE RIDER

In a period of less than 12 hours, two female students reported being assaulted on the Edinburg campus. A suspect in the first incident has been arrested, University Police say.

UTRGV Police sent an email to the campus community last Tuesday regarding one of the incidents.

A student reported having been groped in her buttocks and breast areas by an unknown man in a stairwell of the Health Science West building around

8:11 p.m. April 18. She reported the incident at 10:17 p.m.

She described the man to be a Hispanic male, about 5 feet 6 inches tall and 170 pounds. The suspect was last seen wearing a navy blue Hollister shirt with green-and-white lettering, khaki shorts, black-framed glasses and carrying a yellow folder containing a stack of papers.

"We have looked at our cameras and so far we haven't been able to find a suspect fitting that description in any of the video cameras that we have,"

University Police Chief Raul Munguia said. "Unfortunately,



the hallway, I mean, the stairway does not have cameras but we are moving forward with the investigation."

The majority of the cameras the department uses to review investigations are installed in the university parking lots and other cameras can also monitor the space between buildings but not many are found within individual buildings, the chief said.

No arrest has been made in the case. Anyone with information is asked to call University Police at 665-7151 or email at police@utrgv.edu.

"Our No. 1 priority is the safety of our students and staff," Munguia said. "We're doing

what we can to get this suspect identified."

The other incident was reported at 11:20 a.m. the same day by an officer who found a man that appeared to be intoxicated on an unknown narcotic substance in Lot G.

It was later determined by the officer that the man was a suspect in an assault that had occurred earlier and was reported through the Vaqueros Report It system.

The victim reported that the man touched her back and arm,

See ASSAULT, Page 5

Encouraging students to be innovators

STARGATE Talks discuss concept of Brownsville as 'New Space City'

Monica Gudiño
THE RIDER

Brownsville middle and high schoolers asked space experts about reusable rockets, job opportunities, nuclear technology, antimatter, dark matter, space exploration and the SpaceX launchpad's environmental impact during the recent STARGATE Talks.

The panel of experts consisted of keynote speaker Sean C. Casey, co-founder and managing director of the Silicon Valley Space Center; Fredrick Jenet, director of the Center for Advanced Radio Astronomy (CARA) of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley; and Volker Quetschke, an associate professor in the Physics Department at UTRGV.

The forum, hosted by the nonprofit organization Project Space, took place last Tuesday at the Brownsville Event Center. Students were encouraged to ask questions about the concept of the New Space City, the Spacecraft Tracking



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Fredrick Jenet (left), an associate professor of physics and director of the Center for Advanced Radio Astronomy, answers one of the questions asked by a member of the audience. Also shown are Sean Casey, co-founder and managing director of the Silicon Valley Space Center, and Volker Quetschke, an associate physics professor at UTRGV.

and Astronomical Research into Giga-hertz Astrophysical Transient Emission (STARGATE) program and SpaceX.

SpaceX, which manufactures and launches advanced rockets and spacecraft, is in the process of building the first privately owned launch platform in the Boca Chica Beach area and expects to begin launching rockets in 2018.

"We want to start the discussion on envisioning the future of Brownsville," Jenet told the more than 500 students gathered for the event. "This concept, I like to say, is 'New Space City.'"

The concept refers to the new business opportunities that SpaceX and STARGATE will bring to the Valley.

STARGATE is an innovation program that is part of the partnership between CARA and SpaceX.

Asked if SpaceX was going to affect the environment at Boca

See STARGATE, Page 2

Opinion

Campus Q & A

What advice do you have for graduating students?

utrgvrider.com

/utrgvrider

@utrgv_therider

@utrgv_therider

Correction



In the April 18 issue of The Rider, accounting sophomore Alejandro Garcia was incorrectly identified.

High school students get a head start for college

Trisha Maldonado
THE RIDER

Leo Castillo, a biology major and second semester student at the Mathematics and Science Academy (MSA) in Brownsville, recommends students apply to the academy.

"I would recommend them just to apply because I was like that too," Castillo said. "I didn't think I'd come here. I just applied to see if I'd get in. And then, I just decided, 'Why not, I'll come,' and I love it here. I love it better than my old high school. I sure don't want to go back."

The academy will expand its program across the Valley to the Edinburg campus in Fall 2016.

MSA at UTRGV is the only academy within the University of Texas System. It is built around high school students who are in the 11th and 12th grades. MSA helps students finish their last two years of high school at a university, taking 15



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Math and Science Academy seniors listen to a presentation about student support services last Friday in Main Building room 2.112 on the Brownsville campus.

to 18 college-credit hours per semester.

"We received a million dollar expansion from the state

Legislature," MSA Principal Wilma Smetter said. "So, we are opening the same academy that we have here in Brownsville on

the Edinburg campus and we will cap at 50 students."

Recruiting has already started

See MSA, Page 5

THE RIDER

The Rider is the official, award-winning student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The newspaper is widely distributed on and off campus in Brownsville and Edinburg, Texas. Views presented are those of the writers and do not reflect those of the newspaper or university.

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
Bryan Ramos
Marissa Rodriguez

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

Vaquero Ice Cream Bar
Ice cream will be served from noon to 1 p.m. today in the Main Building's Courtyard on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call the Student Union at 665-7989.

Senior Art Show I
The first **Senior Art Show** of the semester, "**Sublime Nature**," opens with a reception at 6 tonight in the Gallery at Rusteberg Hall. "Sublime Nature" features the work of **Peter Aguirre** and **Mark Treviño**. The show runs through Friday. Admission is \$1. For more information or special accommodations, call Visual Arts Lecturer **Alejandro Macias** at 882-7097.

Documentary screening
Stories of the Mind, documentaries aiming to change the conversation on mental health, will be screened from 6:30 to 8 tonight in Main Building's Salón Cassia. For more information, call **Counseling and Psychological Services** at 882-3897.

Game-A-Palooza
The **Student Union** invites students to **Game-A-Palooza** from noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday in the Game Room on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Denim Day
The **Counseling Center** and the **Office of Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention** encourage the campus community to wear jeans Wednesday in protest against sexual violence. **Denim Day** will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Main Courtyard on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 882-3897.

Smile Dolls
The **Operation Smile Club** at UTRGV invites the campus community to join it in making **Smile Dolls** from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday in STAC 1.101 on the Edinburg campus. The dolls are for children with a cleft lip or palate who are awaiting surgery. For more information, email **Lesley Robles** at lesley.robles01@utrgv.edu.

Free movie
The movie "**Star Wars: The Force Awakens**" will be screened at 7 p.m. May 4 in the Casa Bella Stomping Grounds on the Brownsville campus and in the Student Union Theater on the Edinburg campus. Students are encouraged to dress up as Star Wars characters for the occasion. For more information, call 665-7989 or 882-5111.

'Le Petit Prince'
The UTRGV **French Theater Class** will present "**Le Petit Prince**" at 2 p.m. May 7 and 8 in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center. Admission is free for UTRGV students with school ID, \$2 for non-UTRGV students and \$5 general admission. The play is based on the novel by **Antoine de Saint-Exupery**. An *Escapade* of French music will be sung live. For more information, email Professor **Suzanne Lalonde** at suzanne.lalonde@utrgv.edu or visit frenchutrgv.us.

Volunteers needed
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.

Peace of Mind Yoga
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.

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 women by women, 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 April 12 and 18.



April 12
12:10 p.m.: A staff member from Environmental Health Safety and Risk Management reported a smell of smoke coming from inside Eidman Hall on the Brownsville campus and a fire alarm was activated. On arrival, officers found burnt wires inside an office. The Brownsville Fire Department reported that the light fixture ballast's heat melted the coating of two wires. A staff member from the Facilities Department remedied the light fixture's issue.
5:23 p.m.: A student reported he was assaulted by another student during class on the Edinburg campus. The victim said the suspect intentionally stepped on his foot, causing him pain and discomfort. The case is under investigation.

April 13
12:37 a.m.: A student reported that a

male friend touched her in an offensive manner on Feb. 19. The student said she was willing to file criminal charges. Campus officials were notified and the case is under investigation.
8:59 a.m.: A staff member reported that an automated external defibrillator (AED) kept behind the information desk in the Edinburg Student Union was stolen between the evening of April 11 and the morning of April 13. The estimated loss to the university is \$1,200.

April 15
8:02 a.m.: A staff member reported seeing a gray PT cruiser in Lot A1 near the border fence, where the individual inside opened the doors to the vehicle and waited until four other males with backpacks emerged from the brush, entered the car and then drove away. After reviewing surveillance footage, officers were unable to capture the

minimal and it has also been shown that it is a boost to the environment."
One student asked why Boca Chica Beach was picked for the SpaceX launchpad.
Jenet replied that it was because of its unique position near the equator, which gives them access to a larger range of orbit. NASA also considered Boca Chica for the same reason.
"Space is not something that's

location where the activity took place.
8:47 a.m.: A shuttle bus driver reported that a student who entered the bus at the Regional Academic Health Center in Harlingen was giving him a hard time and using profane language. The driver said the student was not at the bus stop when he arrived to pick up students, and the student chased after the bus. The driver said he felt offended by the language but does not wish to file criminal charges. The case will be referred to the dean of students.
April 18
7:30 a.m.: A driver of a Chevrolet Colorado reported that a tire came off his truck on the 1800 block of West Schunior Street in Edinburg and struck the rear tire of a nearby bicycle. The bicyclist, a student, was not injured. The truck was then towed away from the roadway.
--Compiled by Andrea Torres

happened in the past but it's actually happening today, and it's not happening for a very exclusive group but it's actually a wide-ranging number of people can be involved in the growing space industry," Casey said. "So, I think students should think that this is something that I can participate in and that I can be [a part] of."

One of the main mandates of CARA is to work with school systems in order to give students the opportunity to be scientists.

The center also offers opportunities for students to join the STARGATE Academy, which is a three-week summer program focused on aerospace and rocket sciences. The program will be offered as dual enrollment, so students who attend will be able to receive college credit.

Christopher Wren, who is on the Android Framework team at Google, could not attend STARGATE Talks but conducted mock interviews for UTRGV students on the Brownsville campus.

Mock interviews are small examples of what it's like to be interviewed for a job.

"Interview skills are something that people tend not to learn, and it is a skill," Wren said. "And so, I can help people sort of identify holes in their skillset and give them ideas in what they can improve."

STARGATE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
Chica Beach, Jenet replied: "You are not allowed to develop anything for at least a 2-mile radius around that because you can't have developments, you can't have things there. So, what does that do? The entire environment around there is protected in that 2-mile radius. So, it turns out the environmental impact is

Live Here, Save Money!

Pay 3 months
and get the 4th one
Free!

University
Inn & Suites

Located in
Downtown Brownsville
55 Perl Blvd.
(Off 12th St.)
For more information,
call (956) 546-0381

- From \$385 mthly. for 1 – 2 persons
- Flexible month-to-month agreement
- All utilities paid (cable, water, electricity)
- Near the UTRGV and TSC campuses
- Security Surveillance
- Kitchenettes available
- Furnished, large rooms, full-size beds
- Restaurants nearby
- WiFi Available
- Laundry Area

TAKE 12TH STREET EXIT GOING WEST FROM EXPRESSWAY.
GO ONE MILE. MOTEL IS ON RIGHT SIDE.

UTRGV teaches personal investment

Ena Capucion
NEWS EDITOR

High school never taught its students what to expect after college--other than obtaining a degree and working. But what happens once you get a job? How do people build credit? How do people invest? Life is more than just the core subjects and a job--it's personal investment--and it will be taught during UTRGV's first Financial Literacy Week starting today.

The College of Business and Entrepreneurship and the Department of Economics and Finance, sponsored by State Farm, Wells Fargo and Capital One, will host the Financial Literacy Week activities at multiple locations across the Edinburg campus.

Edna Pulido, a UTRGV Fall 2015 graduate student, said Texas has a 12.8 percent average of student debt burden, or student debt as a percentage of median family income.

In the Rio Grande Valley, however, the percentage is at least 1.5 times more than the state average. Pulido believes that everyone can benefit from financial education.

"I think that there is not one person exempt from needing those skills. We're going to be talking about topics such as ... [evaluating job offers]," the economics

2016 Financial Literacy Week Schedule of Events	
Today	
You Got a Job, Now What?	12:30 - 1:30 p.m. in STAC 1.103
Tuesday	
Secure Your Credit and Identity	12:30 - 1:30 p.m. in ACSB 1.106
Wednesday	
Learning How to Invest	12:30 - 1:30 p.m. in BUSA 113
Get Your Credit Report	9 a.m. - 5 p.m. in U-Central Express Lab
Thursday	
Free Financial Coaching	10 a.m. - 5p.m. in U-Central 1.197

MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

and political science graduate said. "They're going to learn how they need to take into consideration [offers beyond] salary. They need to see if they need to relocate. There's so much more than just salary."

Financial Literacy Week will consist of four different events in four consecutive days.

Today, Lourdes Servantes, associate director of Career Services, will talk about what happens once you get a job. The event will take place from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Student Academic Center 1.103.

The next day will cover credit and identity with Al Coleman from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. The

presentation will be held from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at Academic Services Building 1.106.

On Wednesday, Assistant Professor Terrance Martin from the economics and finance department will educate the attendees on investing. The event will take place from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Business Administration building 113.

On Thursday, Martin and other financial representatives will be at U-Central 1.197 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to offer free financial counseling, as well as advice on retirement and debt.

On the final day, Friday, the event will reward the winners of an essay contest on financial literacy.

University and high school students submitted essay covers on what financial literacy means to the individual, identifying problems in the RGV and potential solutions. The deadline was last Wednesday.

The purpose of the essay was to bring awareness to the lack of financial education in the Valley and to tap into critical thinking for possible solutions. This event will be held from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Business Administration building 214.

Drawings for tablets will be conducted at each event. For more information or special requests, contact Martin at (940) 224-5027.

UTRGV undergrads share their knowledge

Students present their research during the Engaged Scholar Symposium

Monica Gudiño
THE RIDER

Undergraduate students at UTRGV showcased their research, service learning projects and creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium.

Fred Ernst, associate dean of Faculty Research and Development for the College of Liberal Arts, was the keynote speaker of the symposium, which took place last Thursday in the PlainsCapital Bank Gran Salón in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus.

"There's a lot of information on here, especially from experts like Dr. Ernst," said Adrian Nava, a psychology senior. "There is no better way to get the information than to come here and really apply yourself and pay attention. Get as much as you can. I mean if they are free, take advantage."

It was an all-day event, which consisted of four creative work sessions, 11 oral and 26 poster presentations.

Biomedical seniors Edward Yao and Michael Roa conducted an oral presentation, titled "Testosterone Replacement Therapy for the Treatment of Diabetes and Obesity in Males."

"The symposium is an important event because it gives a lot of students who

usually don't have access to a stage to speak to other students and other professionals regarding topics of their concern," Roa said. "With our presentation we had a topic that we were concerned about that we would like to bring to light and this gave us the opportunity to show that to a bunch of like-minded individuals."

The event was not specifically focused on one major; students of all majors could submit their research.

The presentations consisted of business and entrepreneurship, education, engineering, technology and computer science, health affairs, humanities and social sciences, life sciences, life sciences, math and physical sciences, multidisciplinary studies and service learning projects.

Poster presentations in the top fifth percentile received an award of excellence certificate. Judging was based

“ We have some amazing work that’s been done at UTRGV that can transform a lot of fields of study. ”

Amy A. Weimer
Student Academic Development associate dean

on research questions, data collection, implementation of their project, methodology and creativity.

In Brownsville, one award went to service learning and two for undergraduate research.

"This is a wonderful moment for our students to be able to share what they've been producing," said Amy A. Weimer, associate dean for Student Academic Development in the Office of Student Success. "We

have some amazing work that's been done at UTRGV that can transform a lot of fields of study."

The event also took place last Friday at the Ballroom and the Student Academic Center on the Edinburg campus with keynote speaker David Hicks, a professor in multidisciplinary sciences and director of the School of Earth, Environmental and Marine Science.

Five creative works, 80 posters and



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Fred Ernst, clinical psychologist and associate dean for Faculty Research and Development for the College of Liberal Arts, explains his study on anorexia dysphoria as a keynote speaker during the Engaged Scholar Symposium presentation held Thursday on the Brownsville campus.

17 oral presentations were showcased in Edinburg.

"We made sure to host this event at both campuses so that everybody would have a chance to participate," Weimer said.

College of Education and P-16 Integration hosts first annual Distinguished Lecture series

Andrea Torres
THE RIDER

After she was told she would never walk again because of an illness she contracted in the fifth grade, Berenice Villa did not let this challenge get in her way. She walked again by the eighth grade.

"What motivates me [is] if someone tells me I can't. It motivates me to do it. It might not be your way or society's way but I am going to do it," said California State University Associate Professor Louie Rodriguez, as he read Villa's quote from her model of excellence profile that is displayed at Colton High School in California.

Rodriguez delivered the first annual Distinguished Lecture hosted by the College of Education and P-16 Integration April 18 in the PlainsCapital Bank Gran Salón. More than 40 people attended his presentation.

The lecture was on his latest book, "Intentional Excellence, Pedagogy, Power, and Politics of Excellence in Latina/o School and Communities," in which he explains the steps it takes to



MARIA RINCON/THE RIDER

Louie Rodriguez, an associate professor and co-director of the doctoral program in Education Leadership at California State University, talks to attendees during his lecture on his book, titled "Intentional Excellence: The Power, Pedagogy, and Politics of Excellence in Latina/o Schools and Communities," April 18 at the PlainsCapital Bank Gran Salón in Brownsville.

bring excellence to a community.

Rodriguez is a Harvard graduate and co-director of the doctoral program in Educational Leadership at CSU.

The lecture presented the steps it takes to bring the idea of excellence to the

community by creating a campaign of models of excellence to showcase local talent and inspire students in schools.

"How do we create a movement? How do we create excitement in the community to engage in this kind of

work?" Rodriguez said. "We work together to define excellence in the Latino community, and other communities, and really use it to bring people together. ... I call it the pedagogy of excellence."

To start the recognition of excellence, a community must first define what the term means for them and recognize who among the local talent could be showcased in the campaign.

"The next thing is [to] launch a campaign," Rodriguez said. "You could create posters, banners, bookmarkers, use social media to publicize these people. ... It's all about sharing it locally and celebrating it locally."

Colton High School recognized its models of excellence by displaying posters of current students, teachers and alumni.

"They had the whole nomination process. They were going to nominate two teachers, two students and two alumni of this high school," Rodriguez said. "This student kept coming up, Berenice, over and over again. She was

See LECTURE, Page 10

Campus Q & A

What advice do you have for graduating students?



“Start thinking about what they would love to do. ... Graduating with a bachelor’s degree is a milestone but what comes next will, basically, define their career. ... Try to attend career fairs, go online and start exploring career options. ... So, even if they don’t have a real job, they should try to volunteer, do community service, work on research after graduating, maybe do grad school. Most graduate programs pay students to pursue their master’s or Ph.D.s. Do not sit idle and try to keep busy. Volunteer work, community service, a higher degree would be a good option if they still don’t know what kind of path they want to take.”

Tarek Trad
Chemistry associate professor



“In general, I would say always have big dreams. You need to continue your education. Never forget where you came from. Always remember who supported your education. Keep your ethics. Always be ethical and be sensitive to others. Caring and always remember who helped you, who was behind you, and follow your dreams.”

Luz Maria Silva
Nursing professor



“The nature of my advice will come in three different contexts. For example, professional advice: My professional advice for this year’s graduates includes the idea that this year’s graduates need, if possible, to find a career that they might enjoy. A lot of our majors think that they will enter a career that they will enjoy, which is great. For those who start working and realize that they might not like their job as much as they thought, it’s OK. Find what you like because it will make going to work a lot easier. Life advice: Take it one day at a time. Enjoy life, enjoy your families, enjoy your children if you have any, enjoy mom, dad, sisters, brothers, find hobbies. Do what you love, it will make life amazing. Academic advice: For those majors who are thinking of pursuing graduate degrees, take it one day at a time. Again, focus on your studies but also have some fun hobbies to do because if you try to study, study, study all the time, you will burn out. Overall, my main general advice to the graduates is just enjoy life. Congratulations in a great accomplishment and have a great life.”

Natasha Altema McNeely
Political science associate



The troubled summer games

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR



The months leading up to the Olympic Games are supposed to be an exciting time for the host country. In a few months athletes from all over the world will convene in Rio de Janeiro for the 2016 Summer Olympics. One thing that’s seemingly absent from South America’s first Olympics on the continent? Public support for the games.

Brazil in 2009, when it was awarded the chance to host the Olympics, and Brazil today are two vastly different places. The country’s economy in 2009 was on the upswing, the middle class was growing, while today the country is in a recession.

In 2009, the Brazilian people were ecstatic about the games coming to their country. Now the people and the government are struggling financially and politically. The once popular President Dilma Rousseff is facing massive protests calling for her impeachment over alleged involvement in an oil scandal. The people of Brazil are in a completely different place than they were seven years ago when they found out they would be hosting the 2016 Olympics.

Today the upcoming sporting event pales in comparison to the issues plaguing South America’s largest country. Brazilians are angry that public money is being allocated toward an expensive and temporary celebration of sport. The host country does not keep all profits from the games; revenue is still split among

shareholders.

A Brazilian sports journalist told NPR in January that the country will still “deliver good [Olympic] games.” However, he added that it probably won’t matter much.

“People are concerned with more pressing, urgent things right now,” the journalist said.

Brazilians are not just ambivalent about the Olympics coming to the

“ In 2009, the Brazilian people were ecstatic about the games coming to their country. Now the people and the government are struggling financially and politically. ”

country, many are understandably upset.

Citizens call the games a huge contradiction in priorities. Health care in the country is becoming a problem. State-run hospitals are getting budget cuts because the price of Brazilian oil is low. People are getting infected with the Zika virus. There is fear surrounding that virus, not only in Brazil now, but around the world. While locals fear for their health and struggle to get proper health care, multimillion-dollar venues are being constructed.

The juxtaposition of millions being spent in venues that will only be in use for 17 days while Brazilian people struggle with their finances is strong. These Olympics are costing the country an estimated 39.1 billion reais (\$11,040,686,550 USD). These estimates

come from a Reuters article from January.

Expenses include improvements to infrastructure, such as upgrading the existing subway system as well as the airport and roads. These are things that can serve Brazil’s capital for years to come. It is the construction of venues for the events that take a large toll on the economy.

Greece, a country that hosted the Olympics in 2008, is seeing results that may also happen in Brazil with many venues being unutilized years after the games leave the country. The new venue and renovation projects in the country have ballooned to \$10.2 billion USD, according to Business Insider, with inflation of the Brazilian real contributing to the cost. The construction has been interrupted with worker strikes more than once, but the country says projects will be 100 percent complete by August.

The country’s government took an opportunity to host the games when the nation was on more stable footing. Now, the South American nation is about to hold an event that will have an impact on the economy for years.

Even if the 2016 Summer Games are a huge success and Brazil wins lots of gold medals in August, the success will fade. If Olympic venues could continue to create jobs in the years after the excitement of the games, it would be great.

However, the past has shown that many countries’ arenas and stadiums are only a financial burden to maintain with little practical use.

When you watch the Summer Olympics in August, you can cheer on your favorite athletes but also keep in your thoughts the people in a nation that may have dug itself a Greek-like hole.



“Differentiate yourself from others wherever you go. Value yourself. Specializations are a way to value yourself. Whenever you have a job at a private market, you have to differentiate yourself from other people in order to make your employers think you are different. Focus on things that make you distinctive.”

Dongkyu Kim
Political science lecturer

--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza and Lesley Robles

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 utrgytherider@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.

When entertainment unites

Three-day Comic Con in the RGV

Ena Capucion
NEWS EDITOR

South Texas Comic Con founder Ramsey Ramirez has been a lover of comics since the moment he could read. From the art and writing to the stories and characters, Ramirez's passion for comics led him to host an event that about 10,000 people attend every year.

The third annual STXCC will be held at the McAllen Convention Center Friday to Sunday. The event will feature over 30 celebrity guests from movies, sports, animations, comics and cosplay--or those dressing up as their favorite character.

Ramirez first began hosting pop culture conventions in McAllen about eight years ago. He attended his first convention in Chicago during the early 1990s. At that time, there weren't too many people attending because it didn't attract the public. However, with the release of movies based on comics, it's becoming a growing trend.

"From there, I was hooked. It was crazy seeing all these lovers of comics and pop culture coming together," the 1999 University of Texas Pan American graduate said. "[There weren't] huge crowds or anything, it [was] just a lot of people who really liked the stuff. We've been going to conventions, me and my buddies, for probably two decades. It's expensive to drive to Dallas or to drive to Chicago [and] we thought it'd be really cool if we [had a convention] here and it ended up being us."



Lord of the Ring actor Sean Astin poses with a crowd at the 2015 South Texas Comic Con.

Ramirez previously owned Magazine X, which featured local musicians and entertainment. The publication ran from 2005 to 2012, and he has been in contact with a number of agents ever since. These agents would ask Ramirez to interview their bands if they were to perform in the Rio Grande Valley. Essentially, these agents owed Ramirez favors. He was able to bring Danny Trejo down for the 2012 South Texas Horror Con--another event

hosted by Ramirez. Since then, it's been a matter of popularity and word to attract other celebrities.

"It's been a lot of work--the hardest part is getting people down," said Ramirez, who earned a bachelor's in fine arts with a concentration in graphic design. "You kind of have to earn the trust of the agents, you know, the celebrities going back and saying, 'Hey, man, these guys were great. You should really go.' [It's] a lot of word of

MSA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for the fall semester.

"The goal is to expand the academy because this academy has been in existence for nine years," Smetter said.

The academy has graduated more than 321 students who have continued their higher education.

"Last year, we had three students who drove in every day from the McAllen area," she said. "Their moms brought them in every day and picked them up every day."

This year, a senior is graduating the same day as his father.

"His dad is graduating with a master's in education with an emphasis in science and [the student] is graduating with his high school diploma along with 60 college hours," Smetter said.

UTRGV also provides the students, who are in MSA, with another two-year scholarship after completion of the program.

"The university has provided them a Mathematics and Science Academy scholarship ... so that they can finish their bachelor's in four years with zero debt," Smetter said. "UTRGV pays for all their tuition, books and fees, which is a huge savings for their families."

She said the students must have at least a 3.0 grade-point average to receive this scholarship.

Although the academy is geared toward the mathematics and science fields, students can major in anything they like, said Camilla Montoya, a program coordinator on the Brownsville campus.

"A lot of them major in biology to go into the medical field," Montoya

said. "We have a lot who are interested in engineering and we do have the occasional liberal arts students. They can choose any major even though we focus on math and science."

She said the selection process depends on how many students apply.

"We try to give a chance for all of those who qualify," Montoya said, "meaning that they have all their application documents in, that they have the test

“With all the extra challenge, it has really helped me mature and become a better student. I am learning so much more than in my other high school.”

Leo Castillo
Math and Science Academy student

scores the university requires and that they show that they have real interest to come into the program. As far as the percentage of students who are admitted, [that] will depend every year based on how many qualified students actually apply."

Melissa Peña, a program coordinator on the Edinburg campus, said MSA reaches out to students and parents through monthly meetings.

"Once a month, we usually have meetings for the parents and students who are interested," Peña said. "And from there we follow up with students in reference to if they are applying."

With the expansion to the Edinburg campus, the academy's total enrollment will go from more than 100 to about 200

students.

"We will be able to serve twice as many students from the RGV as we have been so far," Peña said.

Castillo said the academy has helped him mature and grow as a student.

"With all the extra challenge, it has really helped me mature and become a better student," he said. "I am learning so much more than in my other high school."

Castillo said he decided to join MSA because of the free tuition and advancement toward his college education.

"The free part was a huge factor in it but I guess," he said. "I had an interest to become an EMT at first and I thought, 'Wow! Two years ahead.' That means, two extra years I can help people with EMT stuff."

Evelin Leiva, a computer engineering major and second semester student, said MSA is the best thing that has happened to her.

"Traditional high school setting is not really challenging," Leiva said. "It's an amazing experience. Here, you learn to [study and read for exams] and it makes you so much more responsible."

She said the academy has also strengthened her time management skills.

"We need to actually prepare for classes and read the textbook and as much [as] people don't like to hear that, it's necessary," Leiva said. "You just need to set aside, like, put away your phone and all the distracting technology for, like, at least two hours a day just to get ahead of your classes and read your textbook to not be distracted."

Saturday is the deadline to apply for Fall 2016 classes.

For more information about MSA, visit utrgv.edu/msa or call 882-5742.

mouth from celebrities."

People who attend the event will have the opportunity to participate in Q&A sessions with guest celebrities, including NBA legend Dennis Rodman; Kristin Bauer, who plays Maleficent in "Once Upon a Time;" and Naomi Grossman, from "American Horror Story: Asylum and Freak Show."

Celebrities and locals will present writing and artist workshops. The event will also feature costume contests, professional wrestling and an After Con-cert featuring Carne Asada, Jonwayne Eaden, VLMR and others.

"I think most people expect a lot of comic book geeks walking around with their pen protectors in their pocket or pocket protectors and pens in there," Ramirez said. "But it's really becoming a mainstream thing, especially with the comic book movies, and again there [are] pop culture celebrities, not just comics. There are sports figures and movie actors that come to attract the general audience."

"Basically, you're gonna walk through the doors and probably see a third of the people there in costume repping their favorite hero, heroine or villain. And the other people are just fans of TV and movies and comics and animation. Then you're going to see a ton of vendors with really cool stuff--everything from collectibles to jewelry [and] everything you can probably think of in between," he said.

ASSAULT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

which she found offensive, and he also attempted to kiss her.

The suspect was arrested on charges of public intoxication and assault, both Class C misdemeanors. He was booked into the Edinburg Municipal Jail.

Marlyn Cantu, a bilingual education sophomore, does not have classes in the evening but feels the campus should be made more safe for those walking by.

"I think they should put more lights because the lights from here sometimes they don't work. ... I have been here at night and there's so many police walking around here until 11 [p.m.]," Cantu said.

The patrols that occur within the campus consist of both University Police and public safety officers, Munguia said.

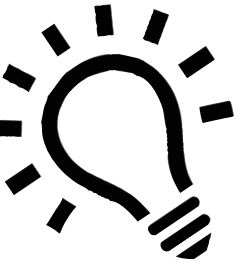
"If they have some concerns or fear, they can call a dispatcher and ask for an escort," he said. "We've put that out there and I think some of the students had forgotten about that and they don't realize that there's that resource. It's right there at their fingertips."

Anyone in the campus community can use Vaquero Report It to report academic dishonesty, student violations, sexual misconduct, concerns about a student, complaints and residence life violations.

University Police advises the following tips for the campus community,

- Trust your instincts--if you think that something is wrong, remove yourself from the situation.
- Try to stay in well-lit areas.
- Take the most direct route and try to stay within areas where other people are around.
- Look and sound confident, even if you don't feel it.
- Walk as if you know where you are going.
- Report suspicious people to the UTRGV Police immediately.
- Try not to walk alone. If you have to, be aware of potentially dangerous places, badly lit streets, dense shrubbery, alleyways and hidden doorways.

To report suspicious activity, call University Police at 665-7151 on the Edinburg campus and 882-8232 for the Brownsville and Harlingen campuses.



Have a story idea?

Call us at 882-5143 or 665-2541



Follow us

@UTRGV_TheRider

Like us on Facebook





Early Registration ends April 28th

May 13-14, 2016

Mental Health, Substance Abuse & HIV Prevention Conference

Registration is now open at Link:

<http://www.utrgv.edu/ce/ files/documents/2016-mental-health-conference-book.pdf>



Fee: \$25 for students
Must present student ID

Among Topics:

Integration of Care, Role of Promotoras in Health Care, Identifying the Role of Curanderos, Providing Spirituality as Part of the Patient's Assessment, Stress Management, Mental Health for Children and the Elderly, Needs of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Women and Depression, HIV and Substance Abuse Prevention

For more information:

call (956) 296-1540 or email modesta.salinas@utrgv.edu, eugenia.curet@utrgv.edu

NEW!

With Sweet & Smoky Moonshine Sauce, Crispy Onion Straws & Applewood-Smoked Bacon Strips

1/3 LB. THICKBURGER® Shown

© 2016 Carl's Jr. Restaurants LLC. All rights reserved. © 2016 The Coca-Cola Company. "Coca-Cola" and the "Genuine Coca-Cola Contour Glass" are trademarks of The Coca-Cola Company. Midnight Moon is a registered trademark of Piedmont Distillers, Inc.

SAVE UP TO \$50

FREE MIDNIGHT MOONSHINE MASON JAR CUP*

WITH THE PURCHASE OF A LARGE MIDNIGHT MOONSHINE BURGER COMBO

ALSO INCLUDES A COUPON BOOKLET WORTH MORE THAN \$10

*Mason Jar is high grade, food safe plastic. While supplies last. Harlingen

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

MIDNIGHT MOONSHINE BURGER OF EQUAL OR LESS VALUE

1970

OFFER VALID THROUGH 5/28/16 AT PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS. Tax not included. Offer available only after regular breakfast hours. One coupon per customer per visit. One discount per coupon. Not valid with any other offer, discount, or combo. Price may vary. Cash value 1/100 of 1 cent. Not for resale. ©2016 Carl's Jr. Restaurants LLC. All rights reserved. Midnight Moon is a registered trademark of Piedmont Distillers, Inc.

COMPRA 1 LLEVA 1 GRATIS MIDNIGHT MOONSHINE BURGER (DE IGUAL O MENOR VALOR)

\$5 PLUS TAX

5-PIECE HAND-BREADED CHICKEN TENDERS™ SMALL COMBO

9145

OFFER VALID THROUGH 5/28/16 AT PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS. Tax not included. Offer available only after regular breakfast hours. One coupon per customer per visit. One discount per coupon. Not valid with any other offer, discount, or combo. Price may vary. Cash value 1/100 of 1 cent. Not for resale. ©2016 Carl's Jr. Restaurants LLC. All rights reserved. ©2016 The Coca-Cola Company, Inc.

\$5 (MAS IMPUESTOS) COMBO PEQUEÑO DE HAND-BREADED CHICKEN TENDERS™ DE 5 PIEZAS (DESPUES DE LAS HORAS DE DESAYUNO)

FREE

FAMOUS STAR® WITH CHEESE WITH PURCHASE OF ANY SIZE FAMOUS STAR® WITH CHEESE COMBO

9779

OFFER VALID THROUGH 5/28/16 AT PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS. Tax not included. Offer available only after regular breakfast hours. One coupon per customer per visit. One discount per coupon. Not valid with any other offer, discount, or combo. Price may vary. Cash value 1/100 of 1 cent. Not for resale. ©2016 Carl's Jr. Restaurants LLC. All rights reserved.

GRATIS UNA FAMOUS STAR® CON QUESO CON LA COMPRA DE UN COMBO DE CUALQUIER TAMAÑO DE FAMOUS STAR® CON QUESO

\$1.29 PLUS TAX

BACON CHEDDAR FRIES

1968

OFFER VALID THROUGH 5/28/16 AT PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS. Tax not included. Offer available only after regular breakfast hours. One coupon per customer per visit. One discount per coupon. Not valid with any other offer, discount, or combo. Price may vary. Cash value 1/100 of 1 cent. Not for resale. ©2016 Carl's Jr. Restaurants LLC. All rights reserved.

\$1.29 (MAS IMPUESTOS) BACON CHEDDAR FRIES

2 FOR \$4.50 PLUS TAX

SINGLE TERIYAKI BURGERS™

1049

OFFER VALID THROUGH 5/28/16 AT PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS. Tax not included. Offer available only after regular breakfast hours. One coupon per customer per visit. One discount per coupon. Not valid with any other offer, discount, or combo. Price may vary. Cash value 1/100 of 1 cent. Not for resale. ©2016 Carl's Jr. Restaurants LLC. All rights reserved.

2 POR \$4.50 (MAS IMPUESTOS) TERIYAKI BURGERS™ SENCILLAS

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

ANY BIG CHICKEN FILLET SANDWICH OF EQUAL OR LESS VALUE

9441

OFFER VALID THROUGH 5/28/16 AT PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS. Tax not included. Offer available only after regular breakfast hours. One coupon per customer per visit. One discount per coupon. Not valid with any other offer, discount, or combo. Price may vary. Cash value 1/100 of 1 cent. Not for resale. ©2016 Carl's Jr. Restaurants LLC. All rights reserved.

COMPRA 1 LLEVA 1 GRATIS CUALQUIER BIG CHICKEN FILLET SANDWICH (DE IGUAL O MENOR VALOR)

FREE

MEDIUM DRINK WITH PURCHASE OF THE BIG CARL®

9058

OFFER VALID THROUGH 5/28/16 AT PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS. Tax not included. Offer available only after regular breakfast hours. One coupon per customer per visit. One discount per coupon. Not valid with any other offer, discount, or combo. Price may vary. Cash value 1/100 of 1 cent. Not for resale. ©2016 Carl's Jr. Restaurants LLC. All rights reserved. ©2016 The Coca-Cola Company, Inc.

BEBIDA MEDIANA GRATIS CON LA COMPRA DE THE BIG CARL®

1 OFF

ANY 1/3-LB. OR 1/2-LB. THICKBURGER® COMBO

9796

OFFER VALID THROUGH 5/28/16 AT PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS. Tax not included. Offer available only after regular breakfast hours. One coupon per customer per visit. One discount per coupon. Not valid with any other offer, discount, or combo. Price may vary. Cash value 1/100 of 1 cent. Not for resale. ©2016 Carl's Jr. Restaurants LLC. All rights reserved. ©2016 The Coca-Cola Company, Inc.

\$1 DE DESCUENTO CUALQUIER COMBO DE THICKBURGER® DE 1/3-LB. O 1/2-LB.

Pizza is better with peers



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Biomedical sciences sophomore Yammile Garza and accounting junior José A. Gomez pose with props to get their photo taken last Thursday at Famous Original Louie's New York Pizzeria during Student Night, an event organized by students in Assistant Professor Timothy Butler's Principles of Marketing class at the restaurant. UTRGV students received a 20 percent discount on their meals.



Ricardo Vento and Filiberto Garza spend an evening eating wings and pizza at Famous Original Louie's New York Pizzeria during Student Night at the restaurant.

Ask a question, save a life



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Arlene Laboy, a graduate intern for Student Support/Counseling and Wellness Services at the UTRGV School of Medicine, conducts a Question, Persuade and Refer Suicide Prevention Training last Wednesday in Sabal Hall 1.106 on the Brownsville campus. The event was hosted by the School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling.

Pick up a copy of Pulse magazine on stands throughout campus!



MATHEMATICS OR SCIENCE MAJOR? Earn a mathematics or science degree with teacher certification in 4 years!

UTeach
The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley



- INCREASE YOUR NUMBER OF CAREER OPTIONS UPON GRADUATION!
- GAIN TEACHING EXPERIENCE IN THE CLASSROOM!
- LEARN FROM DEDICATED UTEACH MASTER TEACHERS!



UTCH 1101

AVAILABLE IN EDINBURG AND BROWNSVILLE

UTeach Rio Grande Valley will prepare you with the skills necessary to educate future STEM students. Join the program that combines a rigorous STEM curriculum with UTeach courses and field experience that allow you to earn a teaching certificate without adding time or cost to a four-year degree. Start with **UTCH 1101 (Step 1)**, the one-hour introductory course taught in fall and spring semesters. For more information, contact a UTeach advisor.

Email danuta.mogilska@utrgv.edu (Brownsville) or monica.yates@utrgv.edu (Edinburg).

Brownsville es campeón consecutivo

El equipo de fútbol de Porter es honrado en la junta de comisionados el martes

Oscar Castillo
THE RIDER

El martes por la noche, la ciudad de Brownsville honró al equipo masculino de los Cowboys de Porter, campeón estatal de la 5A, con una proclamación escrita por César de León, comisionado general “A”, y un discurso sincero de Ricardo Longoria, comisionado del Distrito 1.

“A mi amigo de la infancia y colega, José Espitia, felicidades, mi amigo. Felicidades a ti y a tu personal, a tus jugadores y a sus familias”, dijo Longoria al equipo de fútbol durante la junta de la comisión de la ciudad de Brownsville. “Ustedes le traen orgullo no solo a la ciudad, sino también a nuestra parte de la ciudad”.

Veintiséis atletas, cuatro entrenadores y dos directores de Porter Early College High School viajaron el 15 de abril a Georgetown y ganaron el campeonato estatal de fútbol de la clase 5A, trayendo así el título de vuelta a su ciudad natal.

Los Cowboys derrotaron a los Wolverines de Wakeland High School de Frisco 3 a 2 después de anotar 10-9 en penales.

“Empezamos las eliminatorias. Y así que, nos la llevamos un juego a la vez, y fuimos capaces de ganar el campeonato en contra de Frisco Wakeland, un equipo que estaba clasificado como el N° 2 en la nación y que estaba muy fuerte, por supuesto, los favoritos”, dijo José J. Espitia, el entrenador en jefe del equipo. “[Estoy] muy feliz y emocionado por mis chicos. Estoy muy orgulloso de ellos. Nunca se rindieron. Ellos lucharon a pesar de que eran más pequeños. [Los jugadores de Wakeland] fueron muy físicos en contra de nosotros. Ellos fueron muy fuertes y rápidos, pero nosotros nunca nos rendimos y siempre tratamos de implementar nuestro estilo de fútbol y al final del día nuestros chicos regresaron con el trofeo.”

Espitia también dijo que Brownsville es un poder cuando se habla de fútbol de preparatoria.

“Es consecutivo, títulos sucesivos para Brownsville, así que habla volúmenes del fútbol de Brownsville [y el Valle]”, él dijo.

En 2015, Rivera Early College High School del Brownsville ISD tomó el campeonato estatal durante su entonces racha de invictos.

“Rivera hizo una temporada perfecta el año pasado y fue la primera vez en la historia de cualquier equipo –en el



FOTOS CORTESÍA MARIA ESTEVES

El mediocampista de último año Enrique Soto regatea el balón en contra del delantero de último año de Wakeland Logan Biggs el 16 de abril durante el juego del Campeonato Estatal 5A de la UIL en Georgetown.

Valle, claro—que esté invicto y gane el campeonato, pero al mismo tiempo fue una motivación para los chicos”, dijo Espitia. “Ellos vieron que los chicos de Rivera lo hicieron, tú sabes, gracias a ellos nuestros chicos comenzaron a creer que podían hacerlo por sí mismos”.

Después de perder las semifinales del torneo regional en 2015, él dijo que los Cowboys querían volver más fuertes esta temporada.

“Nuestro enfoque no era ir invictos, pero nuestro enfoque era ir a la estatal”, dijo Espitia. “Y para cuando nos dimos cuenta habíamos ganado el distrito y estábamos invictos toda la temporada. Así que, una vez que entramos a las eliminatorias sabíamos que podíamos hacer lo mismo”.

Porter acaba cerca de una temporada perfecta con un récord de 26-0-1 (ganados-perdidos-empatados). Los Cowboys empataron el 8 de enero en un juego fuera de la conferencia en casa contra North Shore High School de

Houston con un empate 1-1.

“Cuando se habla de fútbol de preparatoria todo termina aquí”, dijo Espitia. “El último juego que quieres jugar es el juego del campeonato estatal, pero por ahora solo es cuestión de disfrutar el campeonato y tratar de darle a nuestros estudiantes de último año ... una buena despedida y prepararlos para la universidad”.

Entre los nueve estudiantes de último año esta primavera está Uriel Sepúlveda, un mediocampista central con un interés en ingeniería eléctrica. Como muchos estudiantes de último año de la preparatoria, aún está indeciso sobre a cual universidad asistirá durante los próximos cuatro años.

Cuando se le preguntó cuál universidad tenía en mente, Sepúlveda respondió: “No está en mi mente en estos momentos, pero estoy viendo ofertas para ver cual me beneficia más y, bueno, los entrenadores me han ayudado mucho”.

El mediocampista central fue uno de los 10 jugadores que anotaron durante los penales en la final estatal.

“Estoy bendecido por ser parte de este grupo y de poder lograr nuestra meta”, dijo Sepúlveda. “No fue fácil pero trabajamos muy duro por ello. Como dicen, ‘la recompensa es siempre lo mejor”.

Quedándose otro año como Cowboy está Alexis Armendáriz, Jugador Más Valioso del juego de campeonato masculino de la 5A.

“Tengo un año más en la preparatoria y no me queda más que seguir jugando y disfrutar mi senior year y hacer lo mejor de él”, dijo el estudiante de segundo año y delantero cuando se le preguntó cuáles eran sus aspiraciones de ahora en adelante. “Ahorita, tengo aspiraciones de probarme en equipos profesionales. Ese es mi sueño. Ha sido mi sueño desde que era chico”.

Armendáriz, quien anotó ambos goles en el juego de campeonato, dijo que

creció jugando fútbol en Matamoros, Tamaulipas, México, y que le gustaría ser profesional algún día.

El Director de Porter High School Héctor Hernández dijo que la escuela aún está celebrando la victoria del equipo y lo continuó haciendo con un pep rally que tomó lugar el viernes pasado.

“Somos los únicos que han ganado el título estatal dos veces en el Valle”, dijo Hernández. “Talvez de San Antonio para abajo, pero no estoy seguro”.

Brownsville tiene una fuerte historia de campeonatos estatales de fútbol de preparatoria. López Early College High School ganó en el 2004, Porter en el 2006 y Rivera en el 2015.

“Una de las cosas que hemos estado diciendo desde [el 18 de abril] y [el martes] es ‘necesitamos transferir todas estas energías y cosas positivas que nuestros jugadores hicieron—si podemos transferir todo esto, ahora, a la parte académica’, y les decimos, ya sabes, ‘es lo mismo. Nunca te rindes con tus tareas, nunca te rindas con lo académico”, dijo Hernández por teléfono.

Durante una entrevista con *The Rider* antes de la junta, Longoria ofreció unos consejos para los estudiantes de último año que se graduarán.

“Mi mensaje para los de último año es que saboreen la victoria, pero también—que al mismo tiempo—piensen en su futuro”, dijo Longoria. “Piensen en lo que pueden hacer con esto. ... Ahora vayan y vean qué pueden hacer con esto. Conviértanse en un entrenador de fútbol y vuelvan justo como [Espitia] lo hizo y devuélvanle algo a los chicos”.

Antes de la celebración que terminó el martes por la noche, el Alcalde de Brownsville Tony Martínez ofreció unos consejos para el equipo y personal.

“Caballeros, entrenador, quiero que recuerden solo una cosa, son campeones, y nunca lo olviden”, dijo Martínez. “Un campeón siempre permanece un campeón, así que felicidades”.



El entrenador en jefe de Porter José J. Espitia es abrumado por la emoción después de la victoria en contra de los Wolverines de Wakeland High School de Frisco el 16 de abril. Los Cowboys vencieron a los Wolverines 3-2 después de un 10-9 en penales.

Visítanos en línea
utrgvrider.com

‘La Gringa’ closes season

UTRGV spring theater final production cast brings the laughs

Marissa Rodriguez
THE RIDER

Twenty minutes after shuffling into the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre, the crowd erupted into eye-gleaming laughter, taken in by the cast of “La Gringa.” Two hours later, sniffles could be heard among the 73 audience members and as the lights dimmed for the final time, the room was teeming with excitement and bursts of applause.

The Carmen Rivera comedy was directed by Communication Professor Joel Garza and drew the final curtain for the UTRGV University Productions 2016 Spring season. The play opened on Wednesday and closed Sunday.

UTRGV junior Tiffany Espericueta starred in the lead role as the wholehearted college graduate, Maria, a first-generation Puerto Rican-American who decides to pay a visit to the “homeland” that she has loved all her life but had never seen. She seeks to fulfill her sense of cultural identity and belonging on the island that she had learned about from her mother and in her Puerto Rican Studies classes.

However, upon arrival, Maria finds that she is an “immigrant in America and a gringa in Puerto Rico.”

She makes the trip with the intention of “finding her roots” but she arrives to realize that her idea of the island is very different than the reality.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tiffany Espericueta (from left), Daniel Perez and Danilo Zepeda rehearse for “La Gringa” at the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre.

Mass communication junior Vladimir Odabachian remarked that the play’s wit and the energy of the cast caught him off guard as a first-time University Productions audience member.

“I laughed so hard. Everybody was so good, I was really into it,” Odabachian said. “And the whole message behind the play really moved me. As a Mexican-Armenian, I know half of my family from Mexico sees me differently and it’s so

good to see that struggle depicted in a way that’s funny and fun to watch, as well as being really thought-provoking.”

Maria learns from her dying Uncle Manolo that cultural identity is something that she defines for herself and that by taking risks and staying compassionate she can connect her “divided selves.”

First-time University Productions Director Garza, who is owner of the All Star Theater in McAllen, said the

play connects with local audiences due to the themes, particularly in Maria’s acceptance of herself and her place within two cultures.

“This story is all too common in our area. Many will recall the line, ‘We have to be more Mexican than the Mexicans, and more American than the Americans,’ from the movie ‘Selena.’ That is the premise of our production,” the UT Austin graduate said. “In the Valley, we are faced with building our identity between Mexico and America. Many of our citizens say it is difficult to identify with one culture or the other, which builds a blend of the two.”

The efforts of the cast did not go unappreciated by the audience. Garza expressed his appreciation of the cast and crew.

“I have had a great experience working with this cast,” Garza said. “I don’t think I could have selected a more professional, hard-working group of people.”

He said the ultimate message of this production is self-acceptance as a means of fulfillment.

“As the audience watches the actors battle for acceptance or integration, I hope they can relate the experience to their lives,” Garza said. “How many times have we shunned someone because they are ‘different?’ I hope this production helps the audience locate those instances in their lives, and helps build a more accepting community.”

Final notes

Felipe Zamorano
THE RIDER

If at the beginning of the semester you hoped to attend one of the many cultural events hosted at the university but didn’t have the time, now is your last chance.

The remaining performances of the semester are part of the program’s three different series, the Student Ensemble Series, the Faculty Artist Series and the Guest Artist Series.

“I think that the great thing about Patron of the Arts on both campuses is that there really is something for everyone,” said Catherine Compton, program director of Patron of the Arts. “There’s just a great range of performances that people can attend, so no matter where your interest lies, there’s really something that everyone can enjoy.”

Members of the Bravo Opera Company will perform “Street Scene,” an American opera by German composer Kurt Weill with lyrics by the famous American playwright Langston Hughes at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday in the

Texas Southmost College Arts Center.

“It has some music theater, some jazz, some blues and also, of course, traditional opera influences,” Compton said.

Following the opera, the last event in the series will be a performance by the Brownsville Sinfonia, under the direction of School of Music Lecturer Betul Soykan, of Symphony No. 5 in E minor by Russian composer Modest Ilyich Tchaikovsky, set to take place at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the TSC Arts Center.

“It’s definitely a master work that will be very impressive and that will be a great opportunity for students of all ages to come and experience,” Compton said.

Admission for both performances is \$5 for students with ID.

A performance by pianist Juan Pablo Andrade, an associate professor, will close the semester’s Faculty Performance Series at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the TSC Arts Center.

“Andrade is performing works by Schubert, Debussy, Chopin, Haydn, and then some traditional Chinese music, and this is in preparation for some upcoming performances in China,” Compton said.



COURTESY PHOTO

The 2015-16 Patron of the Arts season will close with guest artists PROJECT Trio in concert at 7:30 p.m. May 4 in the TSC Arts Center in Brownsville. Student tickets are \$5.

Andrade will travel to China from May 10-21 for concerts in eight cities in the Zhejiang province.

Mariachi Aztlán will perform along with guest groups from Port Isabel and Los Fresnos high schools.

“They are ... nationally award-winning ensembles,” Compton said. “So it’s a great opportunity to hear that group.”

Two more performances are left this semester on the Guest Artist Series.

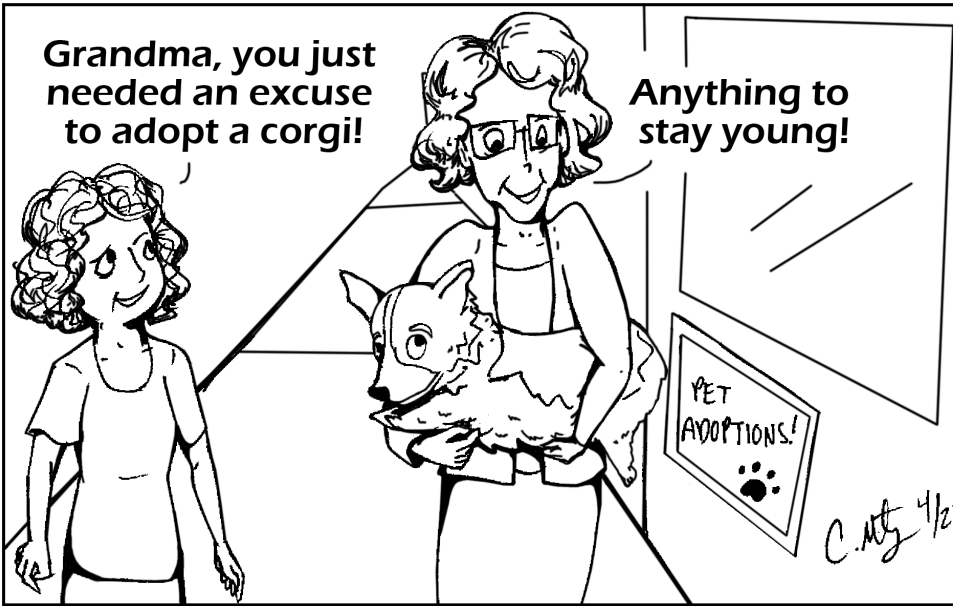
Kevin Mombo, a professor of music at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, will perform marimba music

at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex Auditorium in Edinburg and at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the TSC Arts Center in Brownsville.

“He will be doing some clinics with our percussion students and then judging the [Brownsville Marimba Festival and Competition] and the whole weekend ends with a big multi-marimba performance outside of the TSC Arts Center ... at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 1st,” Compton noted.

PROJECT Trio, a high-energy chamber See PATRON, Page 10

VALLEY TOONS



Brownsville crowned back-to-back state champion

Porter soccer team honored in Tuesday's commissioners' meeting

Oscar Castillo
THE RIDER

Tuesday night, the City of Brownsville honored the 5A state champion Porter Cowboys Men's Soccer Team with a proclamation written by Cesar De Leon, commissioner At-Large "A," and a heart-felt speech by Ricardo Longoria, District 1 commissioner.

"To my childhood friend and colleague, José Espitia, congratulations my friend. Congratulations to you and your staff, to your players and to your families," Longoria said to the soccer team during the Brownsville City Commission meeting. "You bring pride not only to the city but to our part of town."

Twenty-six athletes, four coaches and two managers from Porter Early College High School traveled April 15 to Georgetown and won the Class 5A State Soccer Championship, bringing the title back to their hometown.

The Cowboys defeated the Wakeland High School Wolverines of Frisco 3-2 after scoring 10-9 in penalty kicks.

"We started the playoffs. And so, we took it one game at a time, and we were able to win the championship against Frisco Wakeland, a team that was ranked No. 2 in the nation that was very strong and, of course, the favorites," said José J. Espitia, the team's head coach. "[I'm] very happy and excited for my kids. I'm very proud of them. They never gave up. They fought even though they were smaller. [The Wakeland players] were very physical against us. They were really strong and fast, but we never gave up and always tried to implement our style of soccer and at the end of the day our boys came back with the trophy."

Espitia also said that Brownsville is a powerhouse when it comes to high school soccer.

"It's consecutive, back-to-back titles



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Members of the Porter Early College High School Cowboys Soccer Team receives a plaque last Tuesday at City Hall from the Brownsville City Commission, in recognition of their state championship victory April 16 against the Wakeland High School Wolverines.

Early College High School took the state championship during its then undefeated streak.

"Rivera did a perfect season last year and it was the first time in history that any team--in the Valley, right--to go undefeated and win the championship, but at the same time it was a motivation for the kids," Espitia said. "They saw that the Rivera kids did it so, you know, thanks to them our kids started believing that they could do it themselves."

After losing in the regional tournament semifinals in 2015, he said the Cowboys wanted to come back stronger this season.

whole season. So, once we got into the playoffs we knew that we could do the same."

Porter finished the nearly perfect season with a record of 26-0-1 (win-lose-tie). The Cowboys tied Jan. 8 in a home non-conference game against Houston's North Shore High School in a shootout after a score of 1-1.

"When it comes to high school soccer everything ends here," Espitia said. "Your last game that you want to play is the state championship game, but for now it's just a matter of enjoying the championship and trying to get our seniors, ... a good farewell and get them ready for college."

Among the nine seniors graduating this spring is Uriel Sepulveda, a center-midfielder with an interest in electrical engineering. Like many high school seniors, he is still undecided on which college to attend for the next four year years.

Asked if he had a university in mind, Sepulveda replied: "Not in mind, right now, but I'm looking into offers to see what benefits me the most and, well, the coaches have helped me out a lot."

The center-midfielder was one of the 10 players who scored during the shootout at the state final.

"I'm blessed to be part of this group and be able to reach our goal," Sepulveda said. "It wasn't easy but we worked so hard for it. Like they say, 'the reward is always the best.'"

Staying for another year as a Cowboy is Alexis Armendariz, MVP of the 5A Boys championship game.

"I have one more year in high school and I have nothing more than to keep playing and enjoying my senior year and make the best of it," said the junior forward in Spanish when asked what his aspirations were from here. "Right now, I have aspirations to try out for professional teams. That is my dream. It has been my dream since I was small."

Armendariz, who scored both goals in the championship game, said he grew up playing soccer in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, and would like to go pro one day.

Porter High School Principal Hector Hernandez said the school is still celebrating the team's victory and continued to do so with a pep rally that took place last Friday.

"We're the only two-time state titleholder in soccer in the Valley," Hernandez said. "Maybe from San Antonio down, I'm not sure."

Brownsville has a strong history of high school soccer state championship titles. Lopez Early College High School won in 2004, Porter won in 2006 and Rivera won in 2015.

"One of the things that we've been preaching since [April 18] and [Tuesday] is 'we need to transfer all these energies and positive things about what our players just did--if we can transfer all of this, now, onto the academics part,' and we tell them, you now 'it's the same thing. You never give up with your schoolwork, never give up with your academics,'" Hernandez said over the phone.

During an interview with *The Rider* before the meeting, Longoria gave some words of advice to the graduating seniors.

"My message to the seniors is savor the victory, but also--at the same time--think about your future," Longoria said. "Think about what you can do with this. You've been given this. Now go out and see what you can do with it. Become a soccer coach and come back just like [Espitia] did it and give back to the kids."

Before the celebration ended Tuesday night, Brownsville Mayor Tony Martinez offered some advice to the team and staff.

"Gentlemen, coach, I want you to remember just one thing, you're champions, and don't ever forget it," Martinez said. "A champion always remains a champion, so congratulations."

"Those are the best deal in town because they're all free of charge," she said. "It looks like between now and May 4th there are a few singers, a guitar player, percussion, woodwind players, some brass instruments. There's all sorts of great performances and repertoire coming up."

Sergio Hernandez will be one of those student performers.

"The program is gonna consist of practically every era of the music," the music education senior said.

Hernandez has high hopes for his senior recital.

"There's just a great range of performances that people can attend, so no matter where your interest lies, there's really something that everyone can enjoy," Compton said.



PHOTO COURTESY MARIA ESTEVES

Cowboys junior midfielder Marco Don Juan (left) fights for possession of the ball against Wakeland junior midfielder Matthew Ribble April 16 during the UIL 5A Boys State Championship game in Georgetown.

for Brownsville, so it speaks volumes about Brownsville [and Valley] soccer," he said.

In 2015, Brownsville ISD's Rivera

"Our focus wasn't to go undefeated, but our focus was to go to state," Espitia said. "And by the time we knew it we had won district and were undefeated for the

districts.

Rodriguez presented the seven takeaways of incorporation of excellence for the the Latina/o community:

--Excellence is about recognizing no one does it alone;

--Excellence is not just academic it's also about improvement;

--Excellence is listening and responding to our students' voices;

--Excellence is based in our ability to learn from our own excellence;

--Excellence is responsibility. We need to own it;

--Excellence is in our community's DNA; and

--Excellence is our legacy.

LECTURE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

getting nominated by teachers, teachers and other students."

He said the posters are displayed across campus.

"Now, you walk around in her school, you see Berenice in classrooms, in hallways, on banners as a model of excellence," Rodriguez said. "So the kids can say, 'Oh, who is that?' and the teachers can say, 'Well, let me tell you about her. She went to this school just like you and now she's in college.'"

The final step is to take action and start the campaign with a variety of individuals, such as parents and local leaders, leading movement within the community. The concept of excellence in communities presented by Rodriguez has been implemented in four school

Visit us at
utrgvrider.com

PATRON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

music ensemble comprised of three virtuosic composer/performers, a bass player, a flute player and a cellist from Brooklyn, N.Y., will perform in the TSC Arts Center.

"We're really lucky to have them on this series," Compton said. "It's gonna [be] a fantastic concert, and ... before the concert they're going to be giving a master class on improvisation in music."

PROJECT Trio's free improv class will take place from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Red Room of the TSC Arts Center and their performance will take place at 7:30 p.m. May 4.

In addition to the multi-series performances, Compton said that about a dozen student recitals are coming up.

Vaqueros finding rhythm

Baseball in sync in conference play



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Freshman Anthony Gomez sprints to first base to earn an infield single against Washington State University earlier this season.

Bryan Ramos
THE RIDER

After the cancellation of their opening conference series versus Northern Colorado due to inclement weather, then dropping three of their first four Western Athletic Conference games, the Vaqueros have found a rhythm and their play has reflected that.

Led by Head Coach Manny Mantrana, the team recently picked up its first WAC series sweep of the season and raised its consecutive win total to five as it swept the University of North Dakota Fighting Hawks. In the second game versus UND on April 16, the floodgates opened and the offense ignited when redshirt junior catcher Austin Oakes blasted a solo home run, then senior third baseman Scott Mercer followed with a grand slam in the same inning.

Mantrana spoke after the team’s 12-2 victory against UND on getting production throughout the lineup.

“Anytime you have one through nine producing it’s always good. Obviously, No. 1 on the important list to win baseball games is dominant pitching. No. 2 is defense. Then, you want hitting throughout the lineup and then you want timely hitting,” the coach said. “I think, offensively, we definitely had hitting one through nine and we got the timely hitting.”

Oakes, coming off shoulder surgery

last year, explained how the team’s play has built rhythm.

“For the most part, when you have your defense going, you have your pitching going. It takes a lot of pressure off your at-bats. You get to look for something to drive, put a good swing on it and hit it hard,” Oakes said after hitting his first career home run at UTRGV. “We’re starting to come together, we’re starting to peak at the right time. If we can just take this momentum and roll with it, we’ll be good.”

The Vaqueros’ recent hot streak has been noticed and rewarded by the WAC as Mercer was named WAC hitter of the week and junior pitcher Andrew Garcia earned the title of WAC pitcher of the week for their play during April 4 through 10. They are the second and third UTRGV players to be honored by the conference in the last month, joining sophomore Johnny Gonzalez, who was named WAC pitcher of the week on March 21.

Mercer, a California native who has made multiple outstanding defensive plays on third base throughout the season, touched on how defense and pitching can lift the offense.

“When you get a lot of momentum coming into the dugout, quick innings, it’s a lot easier, especially with our pitching,” said Mercer, whose batting average is .317 this season. “It’s really encouraging and helps us offensively. If

I’m not getting it done offensively, I try to do something defensively and it’s nice to have them both come together.”

Fresh off pitcher of the week honors, Garcia, who is in his first year with the Vaqueros, talked about the team’s recent success and putting the conference on notice that UTRGV is here to play ball.

“It’s huge. It’s telling the WAC we’re here and we’re going to win ballgames and we’re going to try to get into the WAC playoffs,” said Garcia, a junior college transfer. “We’re playing well right now, all around we’re starting to jell. Bats are waking up, pitching has been good, defense has been great, and it’s at the right time, halfway through the WAC season.”

The Vaqueros streak of five straight victories was ended this week when they dropped two non-conference interstate matchups against the University of Texas Longhorns 7-5 and the Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi Islanders 5-4 that were scheduled to prepare the squad for the remainder of the grueling WAC season. There are 12 conference games left to determine the top six teams who will qualify for the WAC Tournament, which is the team’s ultimate goal.

The Vaqueros next hit the road for a three-game series when they take on the Seattle University Redhawks beginning at 7 p.m. Friday in Seattle as they look to continue their run in conference play.

Athlete of the Week



JESUS ESPARZA/THE RIDER

Name:Koby Jansen
Sport: Tennis
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Kinesiology
Age:19
Hometown: Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia

Who is your favorite athlete? “Kobe Bryant, because of his competitiveness. The way he competes every single night out on the court. He doesn’t make excuses for anything and he just wants to win no matter what.”

Who is your role model ? “My dad. He was the one that set the foundation for me at a young age. He went through a lot of tough times when I was growing up, so he is the one that showed me gratitude, showed me compassion. Taught me, well basically, is the reason I’m the man I am today.”

What was the best advice you’ve been given and by whom? “Just when I was finishing high school, my dad told me the thing that helped him was ... ‘You’d rather aim for the stars and hit a tree than aim for the tree and hit a rock.’ So, if you’re aiming big and you miss big, you’re still going to end up better than if you don’t aim high in the first place, so that’s probably the best advice.”

Favorite place to hang out on campus? “Probably my room. When I’m not in the court, either in class or in my room doing work, so probably my room.”

When did you begin playing tennis and why did you start? “I started when I was 10, so I was [a] pretty late starter. There was a racket in the garage and I picked it up and I had a tennis ball and I started hitting balls against the wall just for fun and I’d just do that for hours on end because I liked it so much. Dad said he could put me in some lessons. After that, I just kind of kept developing and then my passion for the sport never stopped.”

Did you win any awards in high school? “Not really in high school. I won big tournaments. I won, like, state championships three years in a row for tennis. I won school state championship three years in a row, as well. Made semifinals of national championships when I was 16 for my age group. When I came to college my freshman year I was school athlete of the year or freshman of the year. I was WAC all second team singles.”

What are your academic goals? “I want to go to [physical therapy] school. I want to stay here and go to PT school. So, if I can have a GPA above 3.5, that’s my goal. I’m sitting on about that at the moment, so that’s what I want to keep up.”

What is your favorite movie? “‘Anchorman,’ just ‘cause I think it’s funny. I think Will Ferrell is hilarious.”

What is your dream vacation? “Probably somewhere in Europe. I want to see Eastern Europe, so probably like France and Croatia around the beach and places like that.”

How do you feel about being part of UTRGV first men’s tennis team? “It’s cool because we’ve come from UTPA and they were very successful all throughout, so we want to keep the tradition going. Men’s tennis has traditionally been one of the best sports here, so we want to keep that going and we want to succeed for the school and succeed for the program and hopefully bring home some conference championships.”

--Compiled by Jesus Esparza

Home Games

Tennis

Saturday, April 30

Women’s Tennis vs No. 3 University of Missouri - Kansas City

9 a.m.

Brownsville Tennis Center

Saturday, April 30

Men’s Tennis vs No. 2 New Mexico State University

1 p.m.

Brownsville Tennis Center

MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

SANDELLA'S®

NEW ARTISAN BREADS



*RUSTIC
PIZZA
CRUST*



*BISTRO
BREAD*

**Now Available at Sandella's, located
inside the Science Building at the
UTRGV-Edinburg Campus.**