

# UT System: 'Vaquera' is OK

## SGA to seek meeting with administration on resolution

**Jesus Sanchez**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF



Although the UTRGV Student Government Association approved a resolution April 8 to use "Vaquera" when referring to female students, the University of Texas System says the term does not need the board of regents' approval to be used or trademarked.

In an email sent to *The Rider* last Wednesday, UT System Public Affairs Specialist Melanie Thompson wrote:

"The University of Texas System Board of Regents unanimously approved 'Vaqueros' as the official athletic

nickname/mascot for The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley at its Nov. 6, 2014 of meeting with the administration."

**"We spoke with our Office of General Counsel and since it is only a slight variation of the name, 'Vaquera' can be used and trademarked without the board of regents approval."**

**Melanie Thompson**  
UT System Public Affairs Specialist

Denisse Molina-Castro, the newly elected SGA president, said the next step in the resolution is meeting with

mascots represent all genders "adequately" in merchandise sold by the school and

emails sent to the university community.

Asked if the resolution had been presented to him, Bailey replied: "No, it hasn't but I did hear about it. Here's the grain from my point of view. When we made Vaquero the mascot, we also made Vaquera. In other words, in my understanding, when we passed it, all forms of the word [were passed as well]. ... Vaquera is already part of our mascot. I don't know how widely people use it and the students may not be aware of that. But, from my point of view, the resolution is fine with me. I don't see any issue there."

Priscilla Martinez, a mass communication junior, said she supports the Vaquera resolution.

"Any type of moving forward

is a great outcome in any shape or form," Martinez said. "I don't why this is an issue if it's something that should have been squashed since day one."

Martinez said she doesn't feel the Athletics Department

Editorial cartoon,

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represents the UTRGV female population when it refers to women athletes as "Vaqueros."

"Even in the banners that you see, 'We play for you'--I think is one of their little mottos--how exactly are they playing for us if they're disregarding our language?" she said.

*The Rider* tried several times between April 19 and press time Thursday to contact Athletics. See VAQUERA, Page 8

# Getting ready to walk

## UTRGV graduation ceremonies set for May 13-14

**Monica Gudiño**  
THE RIDER

UTRGV's inaugural year will close with more than 3,000 students graduating in one ceremony on the Brownsville campus and three in the McAllen Convention Center.

Kristin Croyle, vice president for Student Success, stated in an email that 2,261 students will receive a bachelor's degree, 702 will get a master's and eight a doctoral degree.

Additionally, 11 cooperative pharmacy students will receive a professional doctor degree in pharmacy and 50 Math and Science Academy students a high school diploma from the

university and 60 to 62 college credit hours.

Last December, the university created two artifacts that will be used in all graduation ceremonies, a mace and a medallion with the UT System seal that President Guy Bailey will wear, which makes these items a tradition for UTRGV.

"What we've experienced here, in terms of higher education, is one of the greatest and most fundamental and transformational changes in higher education across the country," Havidán Rodríguez, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs, said about UTRGV's first year.

"It's quite amazing the progress we have made in such a short period of time."

The first ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. May 13 on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville.

At the McAllen Convention Center the ceremonies will start at 9 a.m. May 14 for the College of Business and Entrepreneurship, College of Sciences and the College of Education & P-16 Integration, followed by the College of Engineering & Computer Science and College of Liberal Arts at 1 p.m., the College of Fine Arts and College of Health Affairs at 5 p.m.

Bailey will speak at the ceremonies and distinguished alumni will be recognized on the Brownsville campus. People who made the creation of UTRGV possible will be

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MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

UTRGV students pose in front of the WE WILL Celebrate chalkboard Thursday in Main Courtyard on the Brownsville campus. Students, staff and faculty were encouraged to sign congratulations messages to the UTRGV Class of 2016. An identical board was signed on the Edinburg campus and both will be displayed in the Alumni center, located at 2402 S. Clossner Blvd. in Edinburg.

# Student Government Association inauguration welcomes officers

**Bryan Ramos**  
THE RIDER

Today at noon marks the start of a new era at UTRGV as newly elected members of the Student Government Association are set to begin their term in office after celebrating at the 2016-17 SGA Inauguration Thursday in the Visitor Center Lobby on the Edinburg campus.

UTRGV President Guy Bailey welcomed the officers elected by the student body to be the link between students and university administrators that allows the voice of the student to be heard.

New SGA President Denisse Molina-Castro, who served as SGA vice president in Brownsville this academic year, was overcome with emotion as she held back tears while delivering her closing

remarks at the inauguration. She spoke about the challenges behind her and the challenges that still lay ahead as the new SGA president.

"It's a distinct honor. I'm actually the first female president for UTRGV and throughout the year we've had a lot of obstacles," said Molina-Castro, a senior majoring in political science. "It is time for not only student government but leaders across the university to come together so we work and collaborate and



JESUS SANCHEZ/THE RIDER

Alondra Galvan (from left), Denisse Molina-Castro and Peter Averack take the oath of office during the 2016-17 Student Government Association Inauguration last Thursday at the Visitors Center in Edinburg. Administering the oath is Janet Ekezie, the SGA's chief justice.

are able to solve problems."

SGA plays a key role at UTRGV as it offers the students a place to turn with their problems and the opportunity for their voice

to be heard. A senator is elected for each college at the university providing the students belonging to the college someone they can relate to. SGA's duty is to bridge the gap between the student body and the university.

Cindy Mata, director of Student Activities and SGA co-adviser, talked about the significant role SGA plays on a

college campus like UTRGV.

"I think it's a very important position. This is how we connect the students with administration and with other departments on campus and it really helps the students voice their concerns," Mata said. "With this incoming term, our students are going to keep the momentum going and make more of an impact at UTRGV."

Students were in attendance to witness the inauguration and show support for the newly elected members. Freshman Erika Del Bosque was one of the students in the audience as SGA members took the oath of office.

"I found out about SGA through Senator At-Large Denisse Palacios. Because of her I found out about the big difference they make on campus and the different things they do," said Del Bosque, an

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THE RIDER

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

'Dessert and Dialogue'

UTRGV's Strategic Planning Committee will conduct interactive sessions in which students will learn about the recently formed subcommittees during the "Dessert Dialogue" from 2 to 4 p.m. today in the Ballroom on the Edinburg campus and from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday in the PlainsCapital Bank Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus. There will be a discussion after to provide feedback. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, call the Office of the Provost at 882-8978.

Breakfast Wrangler

Students are invited to enjoy free food, music, games and door prizes during the Breakfast Wrangler, scheduled from 8 to 11 p.m. Tuesday in the PlainsCapital Bank Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus and Thursday in the Student Union Commons in Edinburg. For more information, call 665-7989.

Free movie

The movie "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" will be screened at 7 p.m. Wednesday 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.

Graduate College Information Session

A Graduate College Information Session is planned for students who are interested in the master's or doctoral programs that the university offers. Admission requirements, financial aid and scholarship information will be given by a graduate recruiter. The sessions on the Brownsville campus will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday and Sunday in Sabal Hall 1.104. For more information, call 882-6552 for Brownsville and 665-3661 for Edinburg.

'A Night of Ballet & Spanish Dance'

The UTRGV Ballet Company will present "A Night of Ballet & Spanish Dance" at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex (PAC) on the Edinburg campus. Tickets are available at the PAC box office one hour before the performances. General admission is \$5. For more information, call 665-2230.

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.

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 19 and 27.

April 19

**3:35 p.m.:** A student reported that an unknown man had attempted to make contact with her while on the McAllen bus in transit to the Edinburg campus and also while walking into the university. He made her feel uncomfortable when she saw him on campus several times.

April 20

**2:04 p.m.:** A female student reported that a male student, with whom she had exchanged phone numbers, was harassing her via cell phone messages after she blocked his number. She said she would file criminal charges if the harassment continues. The Title IX coordinator was notified of the incident.

**11:39 p.m.:** A student reported that someone placed blank yellow sticky notes all over his truck between 4:50 and 11:30 p.m in Lot L4. He did not suspect anyone but wanted to file charges for the offense. After video footage was reviewed, it was determined to have been his fiancé and

two friends who were responsible for the prank. He did not want to file criminal charges.

April 23

**12:26 p.m.:** A faculty member reported that a student, who was dropped from his class, displayed an obscene gesture to him while he was walking on the covered walkway. The faculty member wanted to document the incident because the student was upset when he was dropped and in case any other issues arise.

April 26

**10:47 a.m.:** A shuttle bus driver reported he wanted to file criminal charges on a student for disorderly conduct after she refused to follow his instructions and yelled and cursed at him. The student was placed under arrest for disorderly conduct, a Class C misdemeanor. After the arrest, the officer learned that she had provided a false name and date of birth. She was transported and booked into the Edinburg Municipal Jail on the

charges of disorderly conduct and failure to identify.

**7:49 p.m.:** A female staff member reported being harassed by an unknown woman through her Facebook account. She also reported she does not want any problems and wants the woman to stop communicating with her and has blocked her on Facebook. The case is under investigation.

April 27

**12:50 a.m.:** A student reported that he had a heated discussion with his roommate in regard to the cleanliness of a shared bathroom in the Village apartments. The student felt threatened although there were no actual threats of harm or property damage. There is no history of arguments between the two roommates and Residence Life staff was present for half of the contact and were advised of the situation. The case will be referred to the dean of students.

--Compiled by Andrea Torres

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

**Name:** South Texas Engineering Math and Science Mentors Club

**Purpose:** To serve as a university outreach program, which works on promoting higher education to youth in K-16 grade levels and communities in South Texas.

**President:** Brittany Mendez

**Vice President:** Elizabeth Alanis

**Secretary:** Maria Sosa

**Treasurer:** Andre Muñoz

**Adviser:** Javier Garcia, director of the

STEMS Community Outreach program

**Activities:** STEMS 5K and three 1-Mile Run/Walk, Rio Grande Valley Regional Science and Engineering Fair, STEMS South Padre Island Field Day, annual bowling tournament, outdoor skills workshop and annual fishing tournament.

**Meetings:** 12:15 p.m. Tuesdays in the STEMS Office (Bookstore Annex in Brownsville).

**Membership Requirements:** Must be a UTRGV student.

**For more information, call:** the STEMS office at 882-5058 or Mendez at 521-9985.

--Compiled by Monica Gudiño



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Members of the South Texas Engineering Math and Science Mentors Club include Vice President Elizabeth Alanis (front row, from left), Mayra Limas, President Brittany Mendez, Cal Ramos, Michael De Anda and Adviser Javier Garcia. Back row: Rodolfo Garza, William Flores, Oscar Cazares and Jose H. Ballesteros.

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# Heads up, parents

Summer camps available for children at both UTRGV locations

**Marissa Rodriguez**  
THE RIDER

School’s almost out. For many parents, two dreaded words come to mind, “I’m bored.” For those who have children, UTRGV has a solution to this inevitable problem. Both campus locations offer opportunities for children of all ages to engage in academic and athletic summer programs. To review eligibility, as well as information, dates and enrollment, a completed list of summer programs available can be found at [utrgv.edu/camps](http://utrgv.edu/camps).

The P-16 Educational Outreach program organizes the academic programs, which range from art academy day camps to STEM programs and more. The majority of the academic programs are only available for grades six through 12, but elementary level children can participate in the popular Summer Youth Camp, soccer camps for boys and girls and the University Transportation Center for Railway Safety (UTCRS) program, which teaches students about careers in transportation energy with a focus on STEM activities.

While the academic camps are

available on both campuses, many have prerequisites for enrollment. The programs that do not require other academic or regional qualifications are as follows: Team Mario, a summer camp for children with autism ages 8-14, the Art Academy Summer Series for children in grades four-12 and the Migrant University Summer Experience (MUSE) program, which is available for migrant students ages 15-17.

Athletics camps are taught by trained professionals, as well as UTRGV athletes. Programs developed to train soccer players and enhance athletic ability are taught for children ages 5-18. The programs are divided by age range and gender, availability is dependent on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The Summer Youth Camp program offers a combination of these programs, with an emphasis on fun and fitness. It is a more engaging alternative to daycare or three-hourlong funny cat compilations on YouTube, and is available for children ages 6-11. The day camp takes place on the Edinburg campus and consists of activities, art and recreational games all taught by trained instructors, coaches or UTRGV athletes. The Youth Camp sold



COURTESY PHOTO

The Orange Team plays Capture The Flag at last year’s Summer Youth Camp in the University Rec. Center in Edinburg.

out all sessions last summer. Registration for this year is open and applications can be found and submitted at the University Recreation Center.

Assistant Director Art Cabrera has worked within the program since its inception nine years ago. He said the

camp offers a unique learning experience for children that promotes health, fitness and fun.

“One thing our camp offers is structure,” Cabrera said. “Instead of just baby-sitting we do offer activities that

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# First lady of Texas to visit Brownsville

## Renderings for building renovations to be unveiled Friday

**Oscar Castillo**  
THE RIDER

Cecilia Abbott will visit Brownsville Friday as part of the “Texas Main Street Program 2016 First Lady’s Tour,” in which she will display a rendering of three possible building renovations on Washington Street.

“[Abbott will] unveil a rendering that showcases the potential of downtown Brownsville in the event that owners were to rehabilitate their buildings,” said Miriam Suarez, Brownsville Main Street manager. “So, we chose a series of buildings--three buildings that are side by side in downtown Brownsville. The Texas Historical Commission has a group of architects that work on design services for Main Street communities.”

The three buildings are Zepeda Hardware, Rutledge Burgers and the Alamo Clothing Co.

The event is sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission (THC). Each year, the THC selects up to five Texas cities for official Main Street designation. This year Brownsville, Sherman and Corpus Christi were selected and Abbott will inaugurate those cities during her tour.

“It’s a platform for cities and towns



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Cecilia Abbott, the first lady of Texas, will visit downtown Brownsville from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Friday as part of the Texas Historical Commission’s Texas Main Street Program’s 2016 First Lady’s Tour. A ceremony will be held at the Cueto Building, located at 1301 E. Madison St.

to collaborate and share ideas and best practices,” Chris Florance, THC’s director of Public Information and Education division, said of the Main Street program.

Over the course of its 25-year history, the program has helped 175 communities. These communities have seen more than \$3.2 billion in economic reinvestment

and the program has supported more than 34,000 local jobs and helped start more than 9,000 businesses.

“The core of it is that the communities that participate and the communities that are accepted into it, they really made that commitment to preserving their historic--the historic fabric of their community,” Florance said. “So, they’ve worked to preserve historic buildings downtown and not just preserve and restore them but kind of repurpose them, so that they can, you know, have new life.”

The ceremony and reception is open to the public and will take place from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Friday at the Cueto Building, located at 1301 E. Madison St.

Abbott will be welcomed with artwork from local and UTRGV artists and by Brownsville Independent School District students, who will serenade her.

“We’re probably going to showcase, possibly, faculty artwork along with student artwork at the Cueto Building,” said Alejandro Macias, a visual arts lecturer at UTRGV. “We’re obviously trying to showcase what the students are capable of doing, so we’re obviously going to showcase our strengths--each individual strength.”

For more information, call Suarez at 681-548-6156.

# The victory at Puebla

Cinco de Mayo and the reason behind its celebration

**Felipe Zamorano**  
THE RIDER

It is a common misconception in the U.S. that Cinco de Mayo is the day of Mexican Independence. This date, however, commemorates the Mexican victory at the Battle of Puebla, which took place on May 5, 1862, against the invading French army.

“For people in modern Mexico, the victory itself is a great source of pride,” said Irving Levinson, an associate professor of the History Department at UTRGV. “They had demonstrated that anyone who invaded Mexico and tried to destroy their national identity did so at the peril of losing his life.”

The struggle itself originated from a bigger conflict involving opposing

factions in post-independence Mexico.

“This conflict was part of a long series of struggles between liberals and conservatives

in Mexico that had been going on ever since the country became independent,” Levinson said.

The Mexican liberals, like most liberal factions in the world at the time, believed in human equality and freedom, a division between church and state, and strong local and state governments. Mexican conservatives, on the other

hand, believed that not everyone was fit to participate in government and favored rule by a minority, that a formal state religion was needed for a moral society, and in a strong central government telling the states how to act.

“There were numerous conflicts fought



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

over this, but the defining one was ... La Guerra de la Reforma, [which] took place between 1857 and 1860,” Levinson said. “In that contest, the liberals were led by

Benito Juárez, and it was Juárez and his forces that eventually succeeded in defeating the conservatives.”

attempt to establish a conservative government in Mexico.

“Mexican conservatives were not reconciled with their defeat,” he said. “Some of them decided that the only way that they were gonna bring the way of conservative government they wanted back to *la patria* was to solicit European support.”

The most receptive country was France, whose emperor, Napoleon III, wished to expand its empire. After being convinced by the Mexican conservatives, their opportunity arrived when Benito Juárez’s government was forced to suspend the payment of the foreign debt, an action that warranted the invasion of the country.

“The British, the French and the Spanish agreed that they were gonna attack [the Port of] Veracruz in an effort to get back the money that was owed to them,” he said. “However, the British and the Spanish soon packed up when they realized that Napoleon was not interested in collecting the money but

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Campus Q & A

What are your thoughts about UTRGV's first year?



“Well, it was definitely a great experience. I was transferred out of TSTC. I really like how everything is sorted out here at UTRGV with the resources and the way it’s organized with academic organizations, it’s perfectly comfortable for us students to finally have the resources to be able to study and actually just think about the future.”

Sarah Cortez  
Biology junior



“OK, so, I couldn’t see any big progress, but what I can say is maybe a little more of organization in the classes and professors, because I had some trouble last semester and this semester finding out what classes to take, because of the professors. I didn’t know what professors I was going to have for the classes, so I had a little bit of trouble in choosing which classes to find out a schedule that fits my profile, and limitations on my classes. I had a lot of trouble with limitations in my classes, so maybe a little more organization, but I didn’t find any trouble with the connection with Edinburg. It is good so far. I won’t say it’s bad, because it’s not bad and it’s hard to progress in so little time, so I’ll give them more time, but so far so good.”

Francisco Llamas  
Physics sophomore



“I think it’s been good and the transition has been well. A lot of the changes has been good. I like that the campus has gotten a lot bigger--there is more people.”

Leandro E. Salinas  
Chemistry junior



“The first year of UTRGV was the same as UTPA was for me, but there was a lot of difficulty transitioning with classes and getting used to the name change.”

Gloria Thomas  
Chemistry and anthropology senior

--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza and Lesley Robles

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Protect yourself in the digital era

Mario Gonzalez  
PHOTO EDITOR



Have you stopped to ask yourself, what would I do if my phone got lost or stolen today? Do I have a plan? Do I have a way to recover my information? Or, would I be able to track down its location? Those

are some important questions to ask yourself.

I bring them up because I would like to create awareness about the importance of protecting your own personal data.

We live in an era in which everyone is constantly sharing information with everyone through different forms of media, and it is thanks to these pocket-sized computers we carry with us in our daily lives that we are able to do a variety of tasks like never before.

Some people would even say that their phones carry their whole lives with them because it is there where our

most personal information is stored. Information in the form of photos, contacts, emails, banking information, etc.

If these devices hold such importance to us, we have the responsibility to protect our personal data as much as possible. Just like some of us care about the physical well-being of our phones by protecting them with phone cases, we should also take its data into consideration.

For this, I would suggest always having a strong passcode set up in your phones. If your phone offers biometric security, such as a fingerprint scanner, use it and stay away from the temptation of using simple unlocking patterns for the lock screen security.

Because these devices hold all of this important information, phone and software manufacturers have provided tools that enable us to track down the location of our devices and wipe its data in case they are lost or stolen.

Apple offers “Find My iPhone” as part of their iCloud online services, Android on the other hand, provides its users with “Android Device Manager,” an app that offers a similar function. Despite

having these security measures, I know many people who are unaware of their existence and others who prefer not to use them because of confusion or lack of understanding. The problem of losing our phone grows from simply losing it to being completely exposed to fraud and phishing if we don’t have the correct security measures set up.

Another security measure we can take into consideration is using different and strong passwords for the services we use. I know it can be difficult to keep track of all of the different passwords that we use, but there are tools available that can help us store all of them securely. I personally use “1Password,” a password manager app that has helped me keep track and generate passwords for all of the websites and services that I use. There are many others that offer similar functionalities and some are even free. This could help those who are constantly forgetting their passwords.

I hope you can appreciate the informative value in this column, as I wrote thinking of those (which I know many of my peers are) who may be unaware of the dangers of not protecting your personal data in this day and age.

Letter to the Editor  
Sanders supporters, consider Trump for president



Following last week’s primaries in Connecticut, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Rhode Island, Hillary Clinton now leads Bernie Sanders in delegate and superdelegate counts, which isn’t fair because Sanders is winning the popular vote and Clinton is not. The whole system is just corrupt; the whole Democratic election has been stacked against Sanders since he started his campaign. It’s not fair nor has it ever been fair.

Clinton herself has taken massive campaign contributions from big banks such as Goldman Sachs and been paid speech money from Wall Street, which she still refuses to disclose to the public until the other party releases “theirs,” which they will never do because there is no paid speech money from the remaining Republican candidates and as long as she keeps saying that, she can cover herself for the remainder of the presidential race.

As of last Wednesday, Sanders has started laying off campaign staff. It’s a harsh reality but with how the Democratic system is, he will not win and it’s sad because our democracy is supposed to be the “will of the people” and the delegate system has proven itself to be corrupt and dishonest. You can, in all honesty, buy these delegates, which, who knows, maybe Clinton did bribe her delegates with all of the massive campaign contributions she’s received.

As a moderate Republican who is pro-choice and pro-gay marriage, I ask that you consider voting for Trump for president. Think about it, we don’t want Clinton to win and both Trump’s and Sanders’ campaigns are based on a populist platform, meaning for the people and neither campaign is being funded by big corporations or wealthy donors. I understand that the rhetoric has been bad on the Republican side, but I ask you to look past that and to remember we’re Americans before we’re Republicans or Democrats. I believe the reason that Trump says what most people consider outrageous ideals is just his way of obtaining media attention.

Anytime he says something controversial or completely out of the ordinary, the news media will be covering it for days or maybe even weeks.

Look, he’s a successful businessman. Throughout his life, his positions have remained constant, such as trade, jobs and manufacturing and our national debt. Most political pundits and commentators try to show him as this person who hates women, when in fact he doesn’t; the highest executives in the Trump organization are women and his daughter Ivanka Trump helps run most of his businesses. He has many buildings and vacation resorts across the country and some of the greatest assets overseas. He’s friends with many of the world’s greatest businessmen, such as Carl Icahn and Kevin O’Leary. I firmly believe that Trump knows what he’s doing when it comes to bringing jobs and manufacturing back from overseas and renegotiating our trade deals where we lose hundreds of billions of dollars a year, money that could be going to helping families in need, our crippling

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# Adventures in the Caribbean

## UTRGV student takes part in tsunami research

Clarissa Martinez  
THE RIDER

In February, UTRGV environmental sciences senior Carlos Nuñez traveled to Anegada of the British Virgin Islands to conduct field work on tsunamis.

“Basically, what we were doing over there was looking at sand deposits, looking at coral heads, looking at limestone boulders,” Nuñez said.

Nuñez was invited by Brian Atwater, a U.S. Geological Survey geologist and affiliated professor at the University of Washington, to join a research team in Anegada to find evidence of high energy wave deposits.

“Our big purpose was to try to learn about the kinds of earthquakes and tsunamis that can be generated along the Puerto Rico trench,” Atwater said during a phone interview with *the Rider* last Thursday.

Atwater said the broad goal was to see if they can make distinctions between different types of storms. The team mapped the island surface for evidence of extreme waves that brought in corals and clam shells.

Nuñez’s field role was equal to the rest of the research team. It included making observations, doing physical work, providing safety and doing chores in the house the team shared.

Before studying tsunamis in Anegada, Nuñez was researching hurricanes on South Padre Island.

“I was looking at deposits of hurricanes, and taking cores out of the Laguna Madre,” Nuñez said.

It was his research at UTRGV and his interest to further his education that helped him get the opportunity to work with Atwater.

“I sent him an email asking for opportunities for students, for graduate studies. We talked on the phone, and we



COURTESY PHOTO

Environmental sciences senior Carlos Nuñez sits by the trench he dug to look at a stratigraphic record near Bumber Well Pond in Anegada, an island in the British Virgin Islands.

talked a bit about my interests, and what the research I was doing here at UTRGV,” Nuñez said. “He was really interested and he mentioned the possibility of me helping them in Anegada. So I said, ‘Yeah, why not?’”

Atwater said what stood out to him the most during their conversation was

Nuñez’s drive.

“His enthusiasm and initiative got me thinking that doing some field work on this island would be very good experience for him,” Atwater said. “I needed enthusiastic people who didn’t mind getting thorns stuck in them.”

Besides conducting research for his

studies, Nuñez assists with data collection as an intern for the UTRGV Office of Sustainability. His other duties include assisting with events, running booths and planting trees.

“He’s a very energetic, bright

See NUÑEZ, Page 10

# When passion meets opportunity

## Undergraduate student awarded research fellowship to pursue doctoral degree

Trisha Maldonado  
THE RIDER

For almost three years, senior biology major Ramiro Patino has been part of the Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) program at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

“The RISE program’s mission is to hire students who are Hispanic and who are interested in doing undergraduate research

in biology, chemistry and psychology,” said Isabel Nicasio, program coordinator.

The program targets sophomores in these majors, since the program is two and half years long.

“We put up fliers and send emails to professors, who see that if they see students who are wanting to do research or interested, to come and talk to me and I’ll give them an application or further information,” Nicasio said.

She said the program encourages students to earn a doctorate after their bachelor’s degree.

“By the time they graduate they have already applied to graduate schools,” the program coordinator said. And they already know what they are [doing], after they receive their bachelor’s

Patino has had the opportunity to conduct research through RISE and has successfully won awards at several conferences such as the Annual

Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS).

He is studying vectors of infectious diseases, particularly chagas.

“A vector, it could be any biological system. Call it like an insect, something that can transmit the parasite,” Patino said. “In this case, this bug is called [the] kissing bug. That kissing bug bites someone, leaving a wound and then the

insect poops or defecates in that area. ... As long as the feces is getting to some mucus membrane of the body, the parasite can insert easily to the body.”

The biology major has recently been

awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program to continue his education toward a doctoral degree, while also doing research.

The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program receives more than 20,000 applications every year, but offers awards to only 2,000 applicants.

“You can use three years of funding of \$34,000 a year,” he said. “It felt like a great accomplishment.”

Patino said he would like to eventually do postdoctoral work after he earns his doctorate in biomedical sciences degree and try to pursue a job within academia.

“I was thinking to work for the government, but I think I have more



Ramiro Patino

freedom to develop my own research questions if I become academia working in a school,” he said. “So, I would also like to go to academia to get grants for research training programs, so I can also keep helping people because since I was helped, I want to continue helping others.”

Patino’s interest in science and research stemmed from his early college years in Mexico.

“I started college in Mexico where I was studying to the equivalent of clinical scientist here and I really loved it over there,” he said. “When I started taking microbiology classes and we started learning on how we do the tests for the patients I was like, ‘Oh my God, this is so cool!’ And then you start looking at different tests and different things and you start asking like, ‘But what if this doesn’t work?’ It’s that curiosity, like, how do I answer this? And the answer was doing

research.”

Even as a child, Patino was curious to know how things function and the reasoning behind them.

“I was always asking a lot of questions, like, ‘Why is this happening? Why do we have a lot of diseases?’ Since I was like 10,” he said.

Patino considers his program mentors, Teresa Feria and Robert Dearth, associate professors in biology, role models to becoming a scientist.

“[Feria and I] kind of share the same story,” he said. “Although she did most of her studies in Mexico, she had to fight really hard for what she wanted and she achieved it. I feel like she is one of my biggest inspirations because if she could do it, I can do it.”

He said Dearth is also a great inspiration and role model to him because he has worked hard for students in the RISE program. Dearth has kept pushing forward to obtain opportunities for students.

“My best advice was actually given by a doctor [from the Baylor College of Medicine], [who] was brought by the RISE program,” Patino said. “Her name is Dr. Gayle Slaughter. She once said, ‘Once you have an opportunity, you have to make it work. It doesn’t matter if you don’t like it because once you make that opportunity work, all the opportunities that you really want come along.’”

Patino has taken Slaughter’s advice toward his career goals and shares it among others.

“Follow your passion,” he said. “I followed my passion for science and I feel really happy for myself of what I am

See PATINO, Page 10





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# Healthy eating

## Stir-fry rice



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER PHOTOS

**Ana Cahuiche**  
THE RIDER

This veggie-filled rice is a great option for an easy and delicious Asian inspired meal.

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup of white rice, uncooked
- 2 cups of water
- 1 tablespoon of oil
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1/2 onion, finely chopped
- 1/4 small cabbage, finely chopped
- 5 oz. of stir fry straw mushrooms (1/4 of 15-ounce can), chopped
- 4 tablespoons of oil
- 2 tablespoons of soy sauce (more as desired)
- 2 cups of white cooked rice, cold
- 1 teaspoon of red crushed pepper, optional

### Directions:

#### For the white rice:

Place all ingredients in a medium saucepan at medium-high heat until it starts to boil. Cover, reduce to low heat and simmer until all water is absorbed by rice. Let it stand covered for five minutes.

#### For stir fry:

In a medium pan, heat the oil. Add garlic and onion, stir and continue cooking at medium temperature until onion is translucent. Add mushrooms and cabbage, stir and continue cooking for three to five minutes or until cabbage is soft.

Once all the vegetables are cooked, add the rice tossing to mix well; stir-fry for two minutes.

Add soy sauce, sprinkle crushed red pepper and fold in. Stir-fry for one minute more, then serve.



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### ★Radio

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# La victoria en Puebla

## El Cinco de Mayo y la razón detrás de su celebración

Felipe Zamorano  
THE RIDER

Es un concepto erróneo muy común en los Estados Unidos que el Cinco de Mayo es el día de la independencia mexicana. Esta fecha, sin embargo, conmemora la victoria mexicana en la Batalla de Puebla, la cual tomó lugar el 5 de mayo de 1862, en contra del ejército invasor francés.

“Para la gente en el México moderno, la victoria en sí es una gran fuente de orgullo”, dijo Irving Levinson, un profesor del departamento de historia en UTRGV. “Habían demostrado que cualquiera que invadiera México y tratara de destruir su identidad nacional lo hacía con el peligro de perder su vida”.

La lucha en sí originó de un conflicto más grande involucrando a facciones opositoras del México pos-independencia.

“Este conflicto fue parte de una larga serie de luchas entre liberales y conservadores en México que estaban tomando lugar desde que el país se independizó”, Levinson dijo.

Los liberales mexicanos, como la mayoría de las facciones liberales en el mundo en esa época, creían en la igualdad y libertad humana, una división entre iglesia y estado, y gobiernos locales y estatales fuertes. Los conservadores mexicanos por el otro lado, creían que no cualquiera estaba apto para participar en el gobierno y favorecían el mando por una minoría, que una religión formal del estado era necesaria para una sociedad moral, y en un gobierno central fuerte que dictara a los estados como actuar.

“Numerosos conflictos tomaron lugar por esto, pero el definitivo fue ... La Guerra de la Reforma, la cual tomó lugar entre 1857 y 1860”, dijo Levinson. “En esa contienda, los liberales fueron dirigidos por ... el Presidente Benito Juárez, y fueron Juárez y sus fuerzas

quienes eventualmente tuvieron éxito en derrotar a los conservadores”.

Esta derrota, sin embargo, no significó que los conservadores se rendirían en su intento de establecer un gobierno conservador en México.

“Los conservadores mexicanos no fueron reconciliados con su derrota”, dijo Levinson. “Algunos de ellos decidieron que la única manera con la que iban a llevar el camino a un gobierno conservador que querían de vuelta a la patria era solicitar apoyo europeo”.

El país más receptivo era Francia, cuyo emperador, Napoleón III, deseaba expandir su imperio. Después de ser convencido por conservadores mexicanos, su oportunidad arribó cuando el gobierno de Benito Juárez se vio obligado a suspender los pagos de la deuda externa, una acción que ameritaba una invasión del país.

“Los británicos, los franceses y los españoles acordaron que iban a atacar el [Puerto de] Veracruz en un intento de ser devueltos el dinero que se les debía”, él dijo. “Sin embargo, los británicos y los españoles empacaron sus cosas cuando se dieron cuenta que Napoleón no estaba interesado en recolectar el dinero pero también estaba interesado en colonizar a México”.

Charles Latille de Lorencez, el general mandado por Napoleón, marchó hacia la Ciudad de México con más de 6,000 tropas y envió un mensaje arrogante al ministro de guerra francés, “Somos tan superiores a los mexicanos en raza, organización, moralidad y sentimientos devotos, que le ruego a su excelencia informe al emperador que como cabecilla de 6,000 soldados, ya soy el dueño de México”.

“Así que, Latrille avanzó hacia Puebla donde los mexicanos [comandados por el Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza], quienes



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRÁFICA

Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza y Presidente Benito Juárez

se habían fortalecido, se encontraron con sus fuerzas”, dijo Levinson. “Ellos resistieron múltiples cargas por columnas de infantería francesa, y luego contrataron, y los franceses se retiraron hacia Veracruz”.

Sin embargo, después de recibir 30,000 tropas adicionales, los franceses lograron llegar a la Ciudad de México para 1864, obligando a Juárez a retirarse al Paso del Norte, luego renombrado Ciudad Juárez en su honor. Fue aquí donde él basó su guerra continua contra los franceses en resistencia a la invasión.

“Al final de la Guerra Civil Norteamericana en 1865, los Estados Unidos comenzó a mandar una cantidad muy substancial suministros a las fuerzas mexicanas bajo Juárez”, él dijo. “Alrededor de 50,000 tropas de la Unión fueron enviadas a Texas con órdenes de comportarse como si se estuvieran preparando para invadir el país”.

La feroz resistencia de los mexicanos que cansó a las tropas francesas y la posibilidad de una intervención por parte de los Estados Unidos obligó a Napoleón a tomar la decisión de dejar el país, abandonando a su emperador

títire Maximiliano I, quien fue obligado a retirarse a Querétaro, unas 125 millas al norte de la Ciudad de México.

“Ahí fue sitiado y subsecuentemente capturado por los juaristas”, dijo Levinson. “Fue juzgado y ejecutado con dos de sus colaboradores mexicanos”.

Los mexicanos habían logrado derrotar a una potencia europea que había intentado conquistar su país.

El departamento de actividades estudiantiles de UTRGV será anfitrión de una celebración del Cinco de Mayo desde las 5 a 8 p.m. el martes en el Chapel Lawn del campus de Edinburg. La celebración será asistida por invitados de honor del consulado mexicano. El entretenimiento será provisto por el Ballet Folklórico de UTRGV y el Mariachi Aztlán, y se servirán refrigerios. El evento está abierto a la comunidad universitaria.

“Básicamente, el propósito es informar a los estudiantes sobre la celebración y devolverlos a sus raíces ya que no mucha gente regresa a México”, dijo Daniela Venegas, una asesora de programación estudiantil para actividades estudiantiles. “Será un buen evento, un lindo evento, para la gente que asista y celebre esta fecha”.

## VAQUERA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Director Chris King for comment via telephone, email and in person but was not granted an interview.

Bailey told *The Rider* he supports whatever female students or athletes want to be referred as.

“From my point of view, the female athletes can be called what they want to be called,” he said. “It’s up to them to choose how they self-identify. As far as I’m concerned, this is a matter for the female athletes to decide. I’ll support them, whatever their decision is.”

Martinez said the use of the term “Vaquera” should not be an issue as it is part of the culture in the Rio Grande Valley.

“I would expect these issues to be brought up with somebody that doesn’t know any better,” Martinez said. “They don’t know the language, they don’t know the history, they don’t know their surroundings, but this is the university in the Rio Grande Valley. This is Valley 101. This is something that comes with the language. It comes with the territory and, you know, Guy Bailey, he promised a lot of things and none are being fulfilled so you just need to be accountable to what you promised and, especially, if more of the students are demanding it, not just 100 athletes. I think the 29,000 of the rest of the students are more important than only 100 of the female athletes.”

“I think the 29,000 of the rest of the students are more important than only 100 of the female athletes.”

Priscilla Martinez  
Mass communication junior

## SGA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

English major. “Since a lot of us are from here, from the Valley, a lot of people don’t appreciate what UTRGV does, so they’ll bring more events to get people motivated.”

Molina-Castro and her vice presidents at each campus, junior Peter Averack in Edinburg and sophomore Alondra Galvan in Brownsville, hope to push the movement of SGA forward as UTRGV continues to grow and make an impact on university life.

“We want to make sure that everyone’s available and we’re able to be out there for the student body. Work doesn’t stop here. We have some pending resolutions and bills that we will continue to address

throughout this term. We have new members that are ready to hit the ground running. They’re ready to start and they already have ideas, concerns and ways to improve our quality of life here at the university,”

Molina-Castro said.

You can keep up with the latest UTRGV Student Government Association news and future SGA meetings by liking their page on Facebook or following them on Twitter @UTRGVStudentGov.

“We have new members that are ready to hit the ground running. They’re ready to start and they already have ideas, concerns and ways to improve our quality of life here at the university.”

Denisse Molina-Castro  
Student Government Association president

UTRGVStudentGov.



## CINCO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

also interested in colonizing Mexico.”

Charles Latrille de Lorencez, the general sent by Napoleon, marched toward Mexico City with over 6,000 troops and sent an arrogant message to the French minister of war, “We are so superior to the Mexicans in race, organization, morality and devoted sentiments, that I beg your excellency to inform the emperor that as the head of 6,000 soldiers, I am already master of Mexico.”

“So, Latrille advanced on Puebla where the Mexicans [commanded by Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza], who had dug in, met

his forces,” Levinson said. “They resisted multiple charges by columns of French infantry, and then counterattacked, and the French retreated back to Veracruz.”

However, after receiving 30,000 additional troops, the French made it to Mexico City by 1864, forcing Juárez to retreat to El Paso del Norte, later renamed Ciudad Juárez in his honor. It was here where he based his continuous war against the French in resistance to the invasion.

“At the end of the U.S. Civil War in 1865, the United States began sending a very substantial amount of supplies to the Mexican forces under Juárez,” he said. “About 50,000 Union troops were sent to Texas with orders to behave as if they

were preparing to invade the country.”

The fierce resistance by the Mexicans that wore down French troops and the possibility of an intervention by the U.S. forced Napoleon to decide to leave the country, abandoning his puppet emperor, Maximilian I, who was forced to retreat to Querétaro, some 125 miles north of Mexico City.

“There he was besieged and subsequently captured by the Juaristas,” Levinson said. “He was tried and executed along with two of his Mexican collaborators.”

The Mexicans had succeeded in defeating a European power that had attempted to conquer their country.

The Student Activities Department

at UTRGV will host a Cinco de Mayo celebration from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday on the Edinburg campus’ Chapel Lawn. The celebration will be attended by guests of honor from the Mexican Consulate. Entertainment will be provided by the Ballet Folklórico UTRGV and Mariachi Aztlán, and refreshments will be served. The event is open to the campus community.

“Basically, the purpose is to inform the students about the celebration and take them back to their roots since not a lot of people go back to Mexico,” said Daniela Venegas, a student program adviser for Student Activities. “It [will] be a good event, a nice event, for people to attend and celebrate this date.”



# Finish line in sight

## Track and field entering conference finale



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Sophomore Jennifer Zapata jumps over a hurdle during track and field practice this semester. The track and field team will compete in the WAC Outdoor Championship beginning May 11 in Lawrence, Kan.

### Bryan Ramos

THE RIDER

As the year winds down and students prepare for finals, the UTRGV Track and Field Team is ramping up its intensity and preparation for one of its final tests of the season, the Western Athletic Conference Outdoor Championships. Beginning May 11, track and field student-athletes from eight WAC universities will come together at the WAC Outdoor Championships to compete for conference supremacy and

a shot at regionals in their respective events. It is what every team spends the year building toward as all the hard work and sweat expended throughout the season can pay off in a huge fashion. Head Coach Xavier Richardson, who refers to his track squad as “a team of individuals,” expounded on the team’s process as it approaches the WAC Outdoor Championships. “From the first conversation we have in August, we talk about conference, we talk about nationals. It’s never far from

conversation,” Richardson said. “As we move through every team meeting, every competition, we remind them what we’re working towards, that we have to keep those short-term and long-term goals in mind all the time.” The track and field team has had numerous top 10 finishes across multiple events this outdoor season and doesn’t plan on slowing down as it enters the most critical part of its year. Freshman sprinter Yariel Matute has burst onto the scene in a major way, earning First Team All-WAC honors at the Indoor Championships in February and has set high goals for himself as he enters his first WAC Outdoors Championship. “My mentality is ‘stay strong, stay committed, stay focused on the prize’ and that’s to get gold at conference,” the freshman said. “Individually, I’m chasing the UTRGV record, which is 46.60, but one other goal is to just make it to regionals, win conference, make it to regionals and see what I can do at regionals, maybe break the record there because I’ll be pushed to the limit there.” As UTRGV Track and Field concludes its first year since the merger, the first group of seniors to put UTRGV on the map is mentally preparing for the upcoming challenge it has worked toward for four years. Senior hurdler Stephanie Vazquez, an Edinburg native who finished third in the 400-meter hurdles at last year’s WAC Outdoor Championships, spoke about taking in the experience and her mindset as she heads into what could be her final competition. “It’s bittersweet. It’s my last outdoor championship. It might be the last time I’m ever going to race, so I really have to soak everything up,” the Edinburg High School graduate said. “I really don’t want it to be my last. I really want to go into regionals, but I have to imagine it as my last race, my last hurdle, my last finish, striving to finish, striving to get that PR [personal record].” The WAC Outdoor Championships begins May 11 in Lawrence, Kan., and runs for four days as student-athletes compete for the conference crown. You can keep up with the results at GoUTRGV.com.

# Hoopng under a flag

## Two women’s basketball players will compete internationally

### Nathaniel Mata

THE RIDER

Women’s basketball has a strong foreign connection. Three players on the roster were recruited from Europe. This summer, two of those players will play for their country’s senior national teams. Freshman guard Idil Türk will play for Turkey and sophomore forward Hildur Kjartansdóttir will play for Iceland. Both student-athletes have experience playing on the national basketball teams in the past. More recently, it has been Kjartansdóttir who has spent the past three years playing for Iceland when called upon. Kjartansdóttir had a breakout season with UTRGV. She started all 33 of the Vaqueros games, averaging 8.7 points and 7.5 rebounds per game. She was second on the team in field goal attempts and third in field goals made. The 6-foot-2-inch forward from Stykkishólmur, Iceland, enjoys her time back on the small Nordic island because she has the chance to reunite with



Hildur Kjartansdóttir

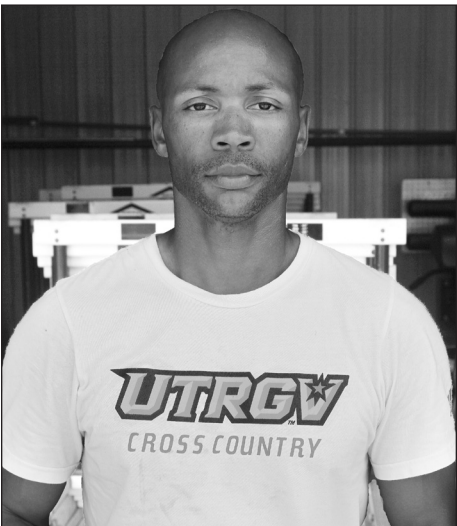
familiar faces. “I really enjoy it, especially playing in front of my family and with my friends,” Kjartansdóttir said. “It’s a great honor to play for your country, so I’m very proud of that.” As part of her strong season with the Vaqueros, Kjartansdóttir showed balance in her game. While playing the center position, she scored 105 FGs, with 22 being three-pointers. She also recorded 16 blocks and 28 steals during 2015-16. The ability to shoot from anywhere in the half-court and also defend the post makes her a valuable asset. She said in Europe with her national team her role might change when playing for Iceland. She doesn’t see the change as a bad thing; instead, she looks forward to excelling in different areas. “It’s kind of different. I’m shooting less on that team, working more under the basket,” the Iceland native said. “It’s very



Idil Türk

helpful you get to see different styles of the game. It prepares you for the future better. Playing against big players and professional players, it’s exciting.” Her teammate has a different past with her country’s national team. Türk has more experience playing against Turkey’s national team while being a member of a high-level club team. Now, the freshman is joining the senior national team this summer. The guard from Istanbul said the European game differs from the style of basketball in the United States. “In Europe it’s actually a lot different than here,” Türk said. “I think playing on the national team I will gain a lot of knowledge. Instead of taking the summer off I’ll be playing in Europe, it will benefit me.” It is a strong contrast from her last summer, which she spent finishing high school in Canada, rather than working with UTRGV’s offseason program. Now See BASKETBALL, Page 10

## Coach of the Week



JESUS SANCHEZ/THE RIDER

**Name:** Xavier Richardson  
**Sport:** Track and field, cross-country  
**Title:** Head coach  
**What is your favorite part about coaching?** “Easiest answer is being in it, being in this element. Out here on the oval, outside, just doing what we do I’d say is the best part.”  
**What was your biggest adjustment going from athlete to coach?** “Biggest adjustment is that I’m really not as capable, physically, as I was as an athlete. I’m still very capable, I never let them forget that, but I can’t do all the things I was able to do as an athlete but I can do some of them. That physical reality check that I’m not 18-22 years old anymore.”  
**What is your favorite thing about life in the Valley?** “I have to go with the weather. Coming from Virginia and the East Coast, we have our hot but we have a lot of cold, and here hot is hot. As speed and power coach we do sprint hurdles and jumps. Hot is great; it’s great for us. We get to train at a much higher capacity than half of the nation. Those northern schools are just edging to get out to spring and we’ve got our spring all the time. We have a lot of summer, but being able to enjoy the weather year-round is a great advantage for us.”  
**What is your favorite place close to campus?** “My favorite place on campus is the walkway past the engineering building, between HPE1 and HPE2 down to the Learning Assistance Center, you know, the little grove of trees. I think it’s just the most beautiful place on campus, just kind of walk through there and see that overhang. Off campus, I can’t tell you because I don’t want people showing up.” [laughs]  
**Where would you go on your dream vacation?** “I’d say Japan or China, I’d say somewhere in Asia between one of those two countries. I have a great appreciation for that culture and the history that they have there and I’ve always wanted to visit China. I’ve been to Japan, but just for a short period, so I guess China, since I’ve never been there.”  
**What is the best advice you have received?** “When it comes to the handling of some things, I’ve heard that ‘No person is bigger than the program.’ I think as a head coach, keeping that in mind answers a lot of questions about things we have to do and the way we have to approach the day. If we’re continuing to keep the bigger picture, the bigger goal and the immortality of the program in mind, I think it helps a lot of what we do and the way we approach things, that the program continues after me, the program continues after they graduate, there’s a legacy we have to leave.”  
**Who is your favorite artist?** “Well, Michael Jackson is the greatest artist of all time. Second to him was Prince. Unfortunately, we’ve lost both of them in recent years, but those are the top two.”  
--Compiled by Bryan Ramos

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**LETTER**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

infrastructure or to our schools that are falling apart.

The biggest problem we have in our country is not that our leaders are dumb or don't know what they're doing, it's just that they're controlled by their donors,

**BASKETBALL**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

her summer can be spent improving her game before returning as a sophomore.

Türk is a jump shooter primarily, and doesn't expect that to change when she

**NUÑEZ**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

young man who's willing to help with anything or try anything," said Office of Sustainability Grant Writer Deborah Fitzwater-Dewey. "He doesn't shy away from assignments."

Atwater and Nuñez have been exchanging emails about Nuñez's senior project that is based on his work in Anegada. Nuñez collected sand samples,

**PATINO**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

doing and what I have accomplished."

Patino said he wakes up every morning and wants to keep revising posters, writing papers and doing more experiments even if they don't work because he has the passion to see what happens.

"If [your] passion is to do communications, if [your] passion is to do art, if [your] passion is to do whatever [you] want to do, [for example,] kinesiology, just follow your passion," he said. "Get the degree you want because

**PROGRAMS**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

try to teach them something. We offer basketball classes, art, dance, we take them swimming and give them swimming lessons and we have recreational games and so much more. With all our classes, they are part instructional and we teach [the children] specific skills and how to work together as a team."

Cabrera reassures parents that their children will be well taken care of while enrolled in the program. The Summer Youth Camp has a veteran crew that is there to guide the incoming instructors.

"We have a good, experienced staff

**GRADUATION**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

recognized as well.

Graduating students are well prepared to leave the university and engage in the professional community, Croyle said.

"Every single one of them is ready," she said. "That's what we are saying when they graduate. They are ready to go out and change the world."

The class ring is still in the works. A committee is working on the design for the ring and it should be ready by the

special interests and lobbyists. Trump is the man for the job, self-funding his own campaign. He will not be controlled by any wealthy donors or interest groups and he is doing this for us, the people, because that's what matters most. He's been endorsed by some of the most successful businessmen, leaders and politicians that our country has.

joins Turkey.

"In Turkey I was a shooter. Coaches would say, 'She's a shooter, get closer. Play defense closer on her,'" said Türk, who expects the level of competition to be high. "I consider this level as professional. People usually go overseas

and took photos of a cylindrical sand grain from an algae stem he found.

"The reason that that work is important is that we're trying to figure out how far inland the water went. ... We need fingerprints in the sand that say that the sand came from the beach or from offshore," Atwater said. "This particular kind of sand grain that Carlos has been looking at looks like it may be one of those fingerprints."

Nuñez plans to enter graduate

if you have that passion you will excel in that area you are in."

Edith Jones, a biology major and RISE student, said the program has been a great mentoring experience for her.

"Thanks to the program, they provided funding and mentoring for me to work in the labs," she said. "The fact that I was an undergrad and allowed to do the experiment and just learn how the scientific method works in real life was an incredible experience."

She said she has known Patino since she first joined RISE.

"He works in the lab next door. I know he is a good scientist and he has done

that are trained in child protection and CPR," Cabrera said. "We also have an 8 to 1, student-to-counselor ratio. So, for every room of 24 children, there are three counselors. Registration is going strong; sessions will fill out."

Cabrera also advises that parents enroll now while there are still slots available, as they are expected to fill rapidly.

For more information on academic and athletic summer programs available at UTRGV, go to [utrgv.edu/camps](http://utrgv.edu/camps). To enroll children ages 6-11 in the Summer Youth Camp program, applications are available at UREC. For questions and concerns, call 665-7808.

December ceremony. When the ring is ready, any alumni or graduating students will be able to purchase it, Croyle said.

Tickets will be required for entrance to the ceremonies at the McAllen Convention Center. Seating will be on a first come, first serve basis for both locations.

In the event of inclement weather in Brownsville, the ceremony will be moved to 6 p.m. May 13 in the McAllen Convention Center. Students will be notified via email 24 to 48 hours prior to a location change.

His children are well-disciplined and successful themselves; he has a beautiful and smart wife, who I think would make a great first lady.

All I ask is that if you're currently supporting Sanders or thinking about supporting him, take a look at Trump because Sanders, as much as you love him and support him, might not make it

to play when they finish playing college. I can bring my American game to Europe and combine the two styles of play."

Türk and Kjartansdóttir look to be large parts of their national team in the summer. They will have the chance to culminate experience and bring it back to

school in Fall 2017 so he can continue to study tsunamis, hurricanes and earthquakes. He is interested in helping the environment with problems that lie ahead due to climate change.

"I think it's really important to help the environment and conserve nature, not only for us but for future generations," he said.

Nuñez's advice to other students comes from advice he has been given and has contributed to his own experiences.

very well in poster presentations," she said. "He also applied and got the NSF grant. That's an excellent award and it's great that he got it. His grant represents a great opportunity for him and his career."

Both Jones and Patino advise prospective students to join the RISE program if they have an interest in research.

"I would just tell them that if they like the idea of research, being able to discover something new and just being challenged constantly, expanding your horizons and more than anything being able to apply what you learn in

because of how corrupt and dishonest the delegate system is. He's a great man and I have an enormous amount of respect for him for powering his campaign through small contributions from the people. Who you vote for, the choice is yours.

**Zach Saenz**  
**Economics freshman**

UTRGV next fall as Kjartansdóttir returns as a junior and Türk as a sophomore.

UTRGV will look to get over the hump of New Mexico State, a team that has ended their shot at the NCAA tournament two consecutive seasons in the WAC championship game.

"All these adventures started just by me sending an email. Definitely don't be afraid to talk to your professors, don't be afraid to ask them for student opportunities, don't be afraid to email other professors in other schools in other countries. You never know if they're looking for someone to help them with their research," he said. "Take a chance, and try to talk to people as much. Try to make connections in the field you want to work in."

the classroom, they should join by all means," Jones said.

She has been accepted to the University of Michigan after her bachelor's.


"I know Ramiro is going to excel in everything he does," Nicasio said. "I already see him with his Ph.D. being a professor and I know he wants to do the same thing as the director does for this program. I know he wants to help other students how he is."

For more information about the RISE program, visit [www.utrgv.edu/hbs/student-engagement/mbrs-rise/index.htm](http://www.utrgv.edu/hbs/student-engagement/mbrs-rise/index.htm) or call 665-3133 in Edinburg or 882-5744 in Brownsville.


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# Nature's perspective

## Senior art show exhibits pieces related to landscape and animals

Andrea Torres  
THE RIDER

Among illustrations of cranes, flamingos and waterfalls lies a lonely metal shark, which was forged by art senior Mark Treviño.

"I invested a lot of time into it," Treviño said about the sculpture titled, "Hammerhead." "This is the first time that I've actually used the technique of forging. ... I tried to achieve something I've never done before and the fact that I was able to create this structure, or piece, is something that I'm really, really proud of."

Treviño and Peter Aguirre displayed their work in "Sublime Nature," the first senior art show of the semester held April 25 in the Art Gallery at Rusteberg Hall in Brownsville. The show ran until Friday and displayed a collection of 13 paintings and three sculptures created by the art seniors.

"I think my landscape is more of a perception," Aguirre said of the theme. "I think it's implied in an abstract way. I tend to add more, you know, religious connotations but I do feel more that nature goes hand-in-hand with religion."

Aguirre's favorite work is "Grace Upon Grace," a painting that displays five flamingos standing in a row.

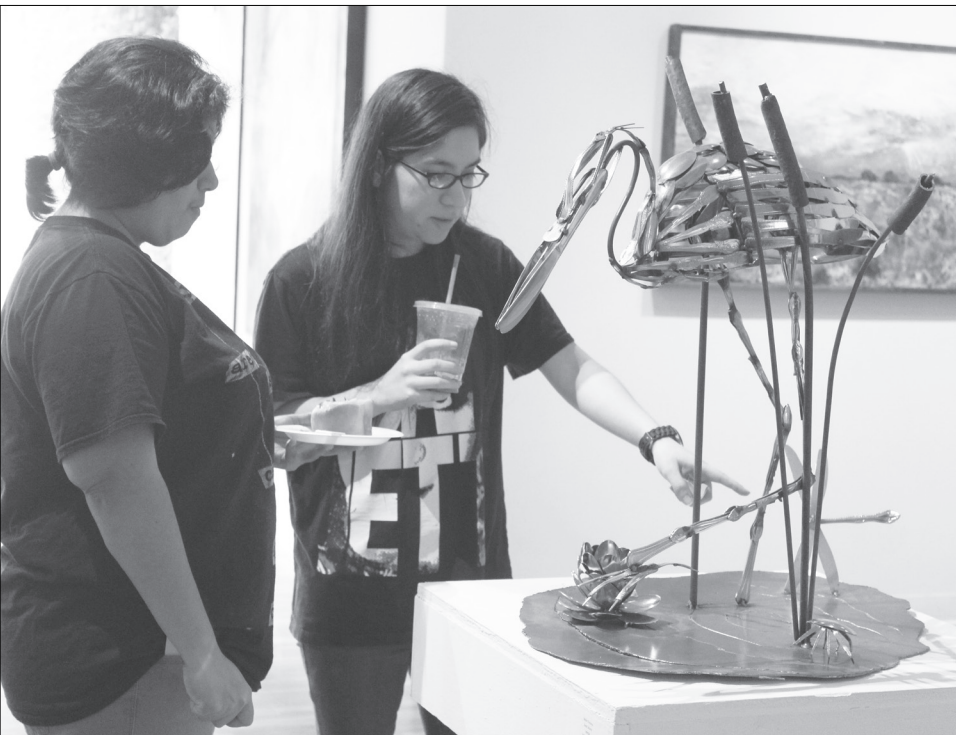
"I tend to always, like I said, add religious connotations, or meanings, with the number five," he said. "I think that the birds are very graceful, they can be represented in many ways. To me it's more of a sublime message."

Among the more than 40 attendees was art junior John Guerra, who said



ANDREA TORRES/THE RIDER PHOTOS

William Flores, an engineering technology senior, and Humberto Ramos, a chemistry senior, observe the "Hammerhead" piece created by art senior Mark Treviño. The sculpture was one of 16 pieces showcased in "Sublime Nature," the first senior art show of the semester, April 25 in the Art Gallery at Rusteberg Hall in Brownsville.



Art senior Roxxanna Rivera (right) talks to art junior Sinthia Martinez about the sculpture, titled "Steel Water," created by art senior Mark Treviño.

he wanted to learn about the process everything he's been building up to."

"This is the first time that I've actually used the technique of forging. ... I tried to achieve something I've never done before and the fact that I was able to create this structure, or piece, is something that I'm really, really proud of."

Mark Treviño  
Art senior

he incorporated the gold with his cranes, he's also used a lot of cranes. I feel like it really encapsulates his style, like

Macias, a visual arts lecturer, at 882-7097.

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## VALLEY TOONS

By Clarissa Martinez





## Bringing in the summer



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Accounting junior Alexis Olivares jumps over the Meltdown (moonjump). The Campus Programming Board hosted the Fun in the Sun event last Tuesday at the Quad on the Edinburg campus. Free hot dogs, hamburgers, nachos, Hot Cheetos and cheese, drinks and shirts were handed out on a first come, first serve basis. Students participated in a hot wings eating contest, took pictures at a photo booth and listened to the local band Costello Country.

## Press start to join



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Civil engineering junior Javier Valdez (from left), Math senior Hernan Vela, electrical engineering sophomore Abner Campos and manufacturing engineering freshman Daniel Cavazos all play against each other in "Super Smash Brothers 4" during Game-A-Palooza in the Edinburg Student Union last Tuesday.

## Buddies for everyone



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Biomedical sciences sophomore Renata Hernández (from left), nursing freshman Marlen Lara, and medical laboratory technician sophomore Sofia Aguiar pose at a photo booth while holding dogs and wearing props last Thursday at the Casa Bella student housing complex on the Brownsville campus during the De-Stress Dog Fest. The event allowed students to pet and play with dogs from the Isabel Y. Garcia Animal Shelter as a way to relieve stress.

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