

THE RIDER

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LNG agreement concerns continue

Faculty Senate committee to present report on issue Oct. 7

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As of last Wednesday, the Office of the President had received more than 200 calls against the agreement between UTRGV and the developer of a proposed liquefied natural gas project at the Port of Brownsville.

Only nine of the 219 calls received were in support of the memorandum of understanding

(MOU) between the university and NextDecade LLC, the developer.

Patrick Gonzales, assistant vice president of University Marketing and Communications, told *The Rider* that 186 of the calls were a result of a protest launched by an LNG opposition group and 24 calls were from a protest started by a UTRGV student group.

Gonzales said both protest



SARAH CARVAJAL/ THE RIDER

Film major Romany Manriquez works on an anti-LNG poster during the Environmental Awareness Club meeting last Thursday in Edinburg.

groups provided UTRGV President Guy Bailey's office number and a phone script for callers.

"We understand that there were two sides to this," he said. "The students that [are part] of that certain student group is opposed to LNG and I hope you understand that there are those who are for it as well. We can't get involved in either of those sides. We're simply focused on

providing the best educational opportunities for our students."

UTRGV Faculty Senate President Bobbette Morgan told *The Rider* that about half the senate members were in favor of the agreement and half were against.

"There were a lot of mixed feelings about the issue," Morgan said in a telephone interview Friday. "We heard

See LNG, Page 8

More UTRGV riders than seats on shuttles



MARIO GONZALEZ/ THE RIDER

UTRGV students wait in line to board one of the Vaquero Express shuttles outside the Main Building last Tuesday on the Brownsville campus.

Monika Garza
THE RIDER

Last Wednesday, Joshua Valladares, a biomedical sciences junior, was left behind on the Brownsville campus because there were not enough seats on the three UTRGV shuttles that departed for Edinburg at 7:30 a.m.

UTRGV offers free transportation for students, faculty and staff who travel from one campus to the other through the Vaquero Express Connector Shuttle.

However, this semester, the shuttle service is experiencing growing pains.

"We are experiencing record ridership levels," Rodney Gomez, UTRGV's director of

Editorial cartoon,
Page 4

Parking and Transportation Services, told *The Rider* last Tuesday. "Looking at the first two weeks, ridership has gone out about 70 percent from the last semester. As of the end of

last week, in total, we had a little under 4,000 students riding the shuttle."

Not enough shuttles is creating anxiety among students, staff and faculty. Many students have been left behind on both campuses because there are not enough seats.

"If I am not here probably earlier than everyone else, it gets full," Valladares said about the shuttle he takes at 7:30 a.m. from Brownsville to Edinburg.

See SHUTTLE, Page 8

Tráeme agua



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/ THE RIDER

Roberto Alvarez, estudiante de ciencias computacionales, trata de aguantar los jalapeños en el concurso de más jalapeños por minuto el pasado jueves durante el evento de Fiestas Patrias. Artículos y más fotos, Página 7.

SGA works to improve UTRGV

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

In her State of the Student Body address last Thursday, SGA President Denisse Molina-Castro said the senate is working on student concerns.

Molina-Castro spoke before more than 110 students in El Gran Salón in Brownsville.



Denisse Molina-Castro

"It is an honor and a pleasure to be here today," she said. "Our members want to assure that you are [being] represented."

Molina-Castro said that the



Peter Averack

senate's priority is to target the ongoing issues that are concerning students, including transportation between campuses. "When students complain about a specific issue like transportation



Alondra Galvan

or something simpler ... trust me, things get moving and you will see changes," she said.

When a student brings a concern to SGA, it will get the student's

contact information and do a follow-up to see if there is already something that has been established, and if the administrators are already working on it, the president said, adding that they will let the student know the status of the concern. If not, they will set

See SGA, Page 6

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

Oscar Castillo

PHOTO EDITOR

Mario Gonzalez

SPORTS EDITOR

Nathaniel Mata

ONLINE EDITOR

Yoga Sree Kakarla

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SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Sergio Garcia

CARTOONIST

Clarissa Martinez

REPORTERS

Andrea Torres
Bryan Ramos
Brenda Garza
Monika Garza
Megan Gonzalez
Nubia Reyna

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Michelle Espinoza
Lesley Robles
Gabriel Mata
Ana Cahuiche
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**ADVERTISING SALES
REPRESENTATIVES**

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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: TheRider@utrgv.edu

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

Town hall prescription drugs

Members of the **Positive Community Impact Coalition** will conduct a town hall meeting on **prescription drug abuse** from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Sal3n Cassia on the Brownsville campus. The meeting will cover safe disposal, prescription drug trends among youth and laws related to use of prescribed medication. For more information, call 423-0018.

Safety tips info session

Staff from the UTRGV **Students Rights and Responsibilities** department will conduct an informational session on safety tips for evening and walking to remote parking lots from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Main Courtyard in Brownsville. For more information, call 882-5034.

Tuesday

Coffee with UTRGV Cops

The **Students Rights and Responsibilities** department will serve free coffee to students who want to talk with UTRGV police officers from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Main Courtyard in Brownsville. For more information, call 882-5034.

Free lunch

Members of the **Baptist Student Ministry** at UTRGV will offer students a free lunch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Quad in Edinburg. For more information, call 383-7491.

PR club

The **Public Relations Student Society of America**, a new club at UTRGV, will conduct its first meeting at noon in Main 1.536 in Brownsville and in ELABS 161 in Edinburg. PRSSA will focus on helping students who are in the public relations field to network, sharpen their PR skills and get experience in the field. For more information, call 882-5105.

Lunch with the Deans

The UTRGV **Student Government Association** will host a lunch for students who want to meet UTRGV's deans from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in El Gran Sal3n in Brownsville. In Edinburg, Lunch with the Deans will take place at the same time Thursday in the Ballroom. For more information, call 665-2517.

Healthy relationships session

The **Students Rights and Responsibilities** department will conduct a presentation on healthy relationships from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in Student Academic Center Room 1.102 on the Edinburg campus. A film, titled

“Escalation,” will be screened. Pizza and soft drinks will be served. For more information, call 882-5034.

Wednesday

Breakfast to go

Members of the **Student Baptist Ministry** will offer a free breakfast from 8 to 9:30 a.m. on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville. For more information, call 383-7491.

Popcorn and a movie

The UTRGV **Collegiate Recovery Program** will present a movie, titled **“The Anonymous People”** from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Sal3n Cassia on the Brownsville campus. Free popcorn and drinks will be offered. In Edinburg, the event will be at the same time Thursday in the Student Union Theatre. For more information, call 665-2674.

Thursday

Graduate school info sessions

The UTRGV **Graduate College** will host a series of **informational sessions** during September and October on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses. Information about admission requirements, financial aid and scholarship availability will be presented. Program coordinators will be on hand to help prospective students start their application. The next information sessions scheduled are for the **College of Health Affairs**, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday in the University Ballroom in Edinburg, and the **Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship**, 6-8 p.m. in Sabal Hall 1.106 on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-3661 or visit <http://www.utrgv.edu/graduate/index.htm>.

Food sales

Raspas

Members of the **Kappa Delta Chi Sorority-Alpha Beta** will sell *raspas* from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Tuesday** on the Student Union Patio in Edinburg. For more information, call 393-9102.

Pizza

Members of the **Japanese Animation Club** at UTRGV will sell pizza and chips from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. **Tuesday** in the Health Sciences & Human Services West building in Edinburg. For more information, call 371-3306.

The **REHAB Club** at UTRGV will sell pizza from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Thursday** in front of the Mathematics and General Classrooms building in Edinburg. For

more information, call 665-2660.

Members of **Health Occupations Students of America** will sell pizza from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. **Thursday** at the Library in Edinburg. For more information, email hosa.utrgv@gmail.com.

Hot dogs and hamburgers

Members of **Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc.** at UTRGV will sell hot dogs and hamburgers from noon to 1 p.m. **Tuesday** at the Library BBQ area in Edinburg. For more information, email piandrade@broncs.utpa.edu.

Hot dogs

Members of the **Student Association for Medical Spanish** at UTRGV will sell hot dogs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Wednesday** at the Library BBQ Area in Edinburg. For more information, call 530-5027.

Members of **Delta Tau Lambda** at UTRGV will sell hot dogs from noon to 1:15 p.m. **Wednesday** on the Quad in Edinburg. For more information, call 534-2870.

T-shirts

Members of the **Deaf Education and Advocacy Foundation** at UTRGV will sell T-shirts and other items from noon to 1:30 p.m. **Wednesday** and **Thursday** at the Library in Edinburg. For more information, call 320-7754.

Fruit cups

The **Bilingual Education Student Organization** at UTRGV will sell fruit cups from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Thursday** at the Library in Edinburg. For more information, call 665-3213.

Burgers

Members of the **Society for Human Resource Management** at UTRGV will sell burgers from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Thursday** in the Library BBQ Area in Edinburg. For more information, email shrmrgv@gmail.com.

Brothers of **Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity Inc.** at UTRGV will sell burgers from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Thursday** on the Quad in Edinburg. For more information, email betalambda@phiota.org.

Bubble tea

Members of the **Filipino Student Association** at UTRGV will sell bubble tea from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. **Thursday** at the Student Union West Patio in Edinburg. For more information, call 507-0372.

--Compiled by Monika Garza

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Sept. 6 and 12.



Sept. 6

11:44 p.m.: A university vehicle driven by a staff member and a car driven by a student collided in the 200 block of North Sugar Road. The Edinburg Police

Department investigated the accident and Emergency Medical Services arrived, but both drivers refused service. Later, however, the staff member reported soreness in his neck and was sent to Environment Health and Safety. The student was provided with a vehicle escort to his next desired campus location.

Sept. 7

6:21 a.m.: A student reported that he broke up with his girlfriend and that she had damaged his personal property. UTRGV officers responded to the call from The Village Apartments where it was discovered that the girlfriend physically

assaulted the student and damaged university property in the apartment. The case is under investigation.

Sept. 8

12:49 p.m.: A staff member in the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities requested that a criminal trespass warning be issued to a woman who has been harassing a student on the Edinburg campus. The officers issued the warning to the woman and escorted her off campus.

Sept. 9

10:44 p.m.: A student reported that another student has been trying to contact her. She said they would talk mutually in the past, but she no longer wishes to speak to him. The student asked that the incident be documented and that the police department speak to the male student.

Sept. 10

1:11 p.m.: A student reported that she was sexually assaulted off campus.

The Edinburg Police Department is investigating the case. The student was offered an advocate and provided with the university resources available.

Sept. 11

2:29 a.m.: A student was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated after allegedly striking a barricade at the entrance of Casa Bella, the student housing complex on the Brownsville campus. A passenger in the vehicle also was allegedly intoxicated and was released to the care of his roommates in his Casa Bella apartment. The driver was booked into the Brownsville City Jail.

Sept. 12

12:33 a.m.: A driver who was stopped for failing to dim headlights was arrested after it was discovered there were three active warrants for his arrest in Hidalgo County. The driver was transported to the Hidalgo County Adult Detention Center.

- Compiled by Megan Gonzalez

Visit us at **utrgvrider.com**

UTRGV builds social confidence

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

The UTRGV Counseling Center is hosting weekly social confidence group sessions on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses.

The Brownsville sessions began at noon last Tuesday, and in Edinburg they will start Sept. 27.

Students who attend the social confidence sessions will work on improving their abilities, confidence, strengths, self-worth and positive thinking, among others.

“The social confidence group is directed to students who may be experiencing social anxiety, or difficulty acclimating or adjusting to university culture,” said Melissa Ramirez, a counseling specialist on the Edinburg campus. “This is a group [session], which means that not anybody or everybody can join the group. ... What we will first do is screen the students to see if they would be a good candidate for the group.” Ramirez said the center

usually allows seven to eight students in the group over an eight-week period, and every week there is a different session goal.

She said some of the goals may include starting or maintaining conversations.

The Counseling Center will conduct eight sessions for each campus and students are encouraged to attend all sessions.

“Confidence is something that you can use anywhere and everywhere,” said Maria Alejandra Mazariegos, a counseling specialist on the Brownsville campus. “Confidence, in my opinion, is the belief in your abilities as an individual.”

Students can join Bloom, the social confidence group in Brownsville, by visiting Cortez Hall 220 or by sending an email to maria.mazariegos@utrgv.edu.

Some of the activities that students will perform in the sessions are role playing and skills practice.

“We all have the potential



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MARIO GONZALEZ
the Edinburg sessions, call 665-2574, and for the Brownsville campus, call 882-3897.

to be confident, we all have confidence in us. ... It is just a matter of time,” Mazariegos said.

She encourages all students to attend at least two sessions.

“It doesn’t matter if you are very, very shy or very, very outgoing, you can always add a little more sparkle,” Mazariegos said.

For more information about

Meet Jerry Polinard

Lesley Robles
THE RIDER

Name: Jerry Polinard

Title: Professor

Department: Political Science

Degrees: Bachelor’s and masters’ degrees in government from Texas A&I University and a doctorate in government, University of Arizona,

Hometown: Corpus Christi

What made you pursue teaching?

“Back then I was thinking about law school and then when I was in my senior year, one of the professors of A&I--in fact, he would later direct my master’s thesis--but both he and the department chair both talked to me about teaching. A lot of the seniors came back on break and they weren’t as excited about it. My favorite course, the course that really did change my life, was a course called Constitutional Law, which I teach now. When I found out that you can get a Ph.D. in government and focus on constitutional law, that



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

really sounded more interesting to me. So, the influence of a couple of professors are what really pushed me into it. When

I got to Arizona, it’s very common to be a teaching assistant. In most cases teaching assistants work with a professor. Since

I had a master’s degree, they actually gave me my own class, which was pretty terrifying because I had literally just turned 23. One of the classes they gave me was required of senior education majors. So I’m one to two years older than most of the students and I thought, ‘My God.’ I still remember the first week in class. I remember thinking this is fantastic, this is just fantastic. I love the classroom. No lawyer has as much fun as I have.”

What brought you to UTRGV?

“Essentially, it was a chance to return to South Texas because I was teaching in Oklahoma State. Basically, it was a combination of factors, location and money. We had not had any raises in Oklahoma. When they brought me in I got a promotion.”

As a professor in the Department of Political Science, what are your duties? “They generally break into three different areas: First, teaching; research;

See **POLINARD**, Page 10

No headphone jack? No big deal

Mario Gonzalez
PHOTO EDITOR

During the iPhone 7 and 7 Plus announcement Sept. 7, Apple confirmed what the news media had been speculating: The new iPhones will lack a 3.5mm audio jack.

It was well known that Apple was going to get rid of the 3.5mm headphone jack in favor of the Lightning port, its proprietary digital interface, because multiple pieces and photos of the device’s hardware leaked throughout the year.

This means that a new pair of Lightning EarPods will be included with every iPhone 7 and 7 Plus. This also means users will need to buy an adapter in order to use their old headphones. The good thing is that this adapter is also included in the box. Because the Lightning port will be the

only output in these phones, the user will not be able to charge the phone and use headphones at the same time without an adapter or the iPhone Lightning Dock.

is not the first time Apple has abandoned a well-established interface for something new or different.

In an interview during the D8 conference hosted by All Things

“ We were one of the first ones to get rid of optical drives with the Mac Book Air, and sometimes when we get rid of things, like the floppy disk, people call us crazy.”

Steve Jobs
Apple founder

While some of these changes are impractical, the hope of Apple is to move the technology forward by removing the old analog interface, which is more than a century old. This

Digital in 2010, Apple founder and then CEO Steve Jobs spoke about this type of behavior in his company.

“We have a history of [replacing interfaces with



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

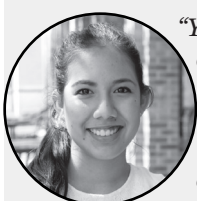
new ones],” Jobs said. “As an example, we went from the 5-inch floppy disk to the 3½ floppy disk with the Mac. We were the first of doing that; we made the 3½ floppy disk popular. We got rid of the floppy disk altogether in 1998 with the first iMac. We also got rid of serial and parallel ports and we were the first to adopt USB

even though Intel had invented it. And so, we have gotten rid of things. We were one of the first ones to get rid of optical drives with the Mac Book Air, and sometimes when we get rid of things, like the floppy disk, people call us crazy.”

The removal of the headphone jack was imminent for Apple; See **IPHONE**, Page 10

CAMPUS ? Q&A

What improvements would you suggest for campus safety at UTRGV?



“Yo pienso que para la seguridad en UTRGV debe de haber un poco más de policías alrededor de los estacionamientos por que como alrededor de las 7 ya se pone muy oscuro y ya no hay casi nadie allí y rara vez veo que haya policías”.

Estefania Luna
Estudiante de ciencias biomédicas de tercer año

“I find this to be a very interesting question; I think there should be more patrols around campus. I hardly see any when I am at school.”



Jesus Salazar
Chemistry junior



“Well, I noticed yesterday that on my way to the parking lot, they put up new lighting. I thought that was cool of them because I get out at like 9 o'clock, so on my way to the parking lot I feel safer. I would say have more security, like nighttime security, and more lighting in parking lots.”

Nayeli Zenteno
Mass communication junior

“Well, I think it would be parking because I've seen cars crossing in places they shouldn't be.”



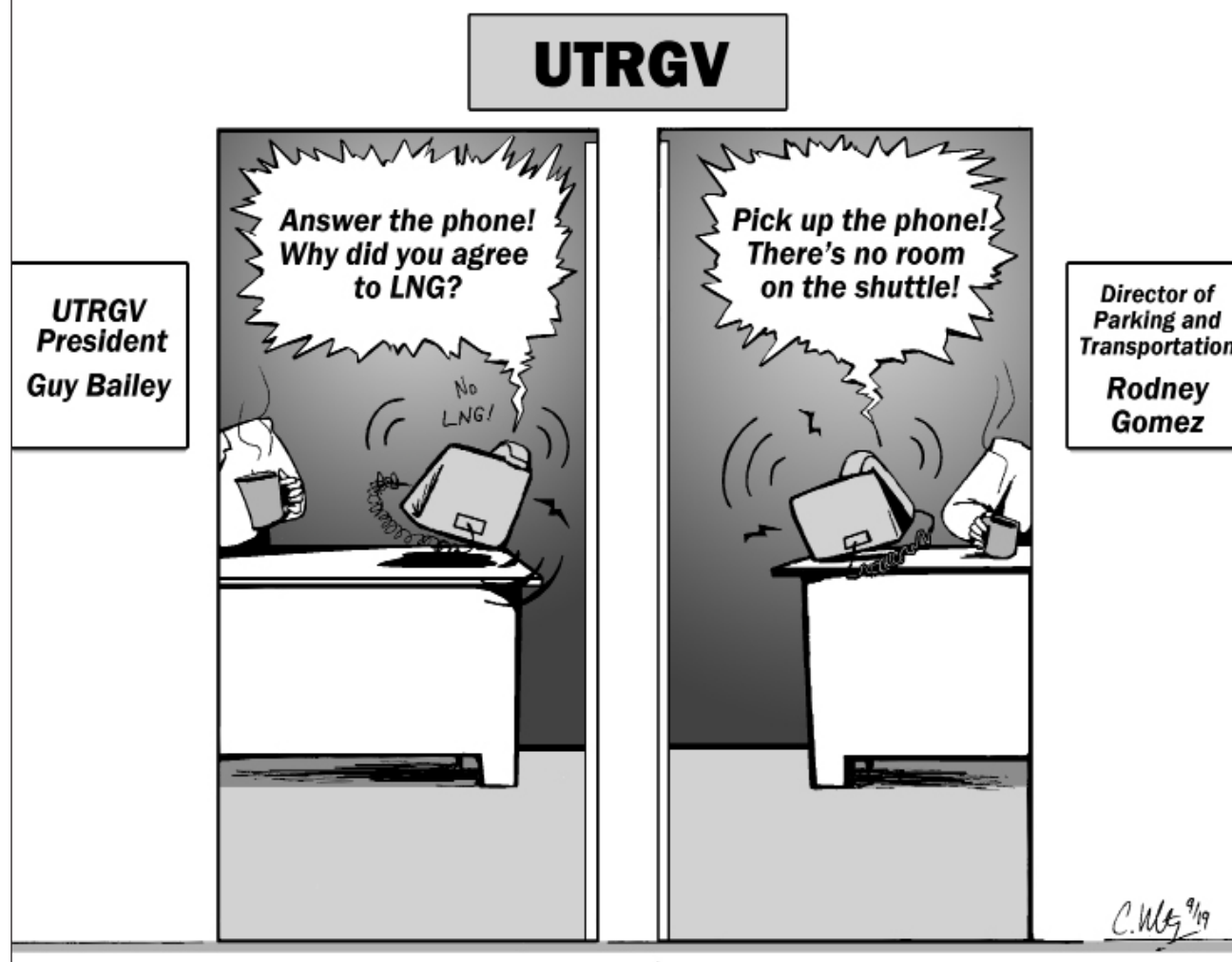
Alex Anguiano
Mass communication freshman

--Compiled by Ana Cahuiche and Gabriel Mata

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As long as we find excuses ...



Monika Garza
THE RIDER

Have you ever wondered what differentiates successful people from the rest? The answer is that successful people do not use excuses. Instead, they take action.

Let's face it, we tend to find excuses to not do our work, homework or accomplish our long-term goals. We are professionals at it. We justify every action that we do to our own convenience.

Humans have the ability to justify every action that happens to us with a supposedly valid reason. The truth is that we can always find a reason for not doing what we are supposed to do. However, we need to stop making excuses and begin to work on what we want to accomplish.

We often lie to ourselves when we say that we are not good enough to accomplish a task.

To eliminate excuses from our lives we must first eliminate all fears. Fear is related to lack of self-

confidence, which keeps us in our comfort zone.

Then we must take responsibility for our actions. It is easy to blame the people around us for the unfortunate events that happen to us. The things that happen to our lives are not anyone's fault but ours.

We also need to learn how to focus on what really matters. As college students, it is easy for us to procrastinate. In fact, procrastinating is what most of us do, including myself. However, we need to learn how to identify and do the most important things first. Then, if we have some spare time, we can do other things that are less important.

Learning from our own mistakes is an essential part of our lives. As humans, we do not like to fail and sometimes this is why we make excuses. However, we learn by making mistakes. We are not perfect and it is normal when things go wrong and we fail.

When we are feeling tired or depressed, it can seem like our goals are far away from us and that we might never attain them. The truth is that goals are reserved for people who choose to believe and act on them.

We need to start believing in ourselves and in what we can accomplish.

“ We often lie to ourselves when we say that we are not good enough to accomplish a task. ”

Have a story idea? Give us a call at 882-5143 or 665-2541

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 TheRider@utrgv.edu. 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.

10 things you should know about UTRGV

Sergio Garcia
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

1. From UTPA and UTB to UTRGV

In 1927, Edinburg College opened its doors for the first time. In 1933, it was renamed Edinburg Junior College and then it became Edinburg Regional College in 1948. In 1952, a new name was adopted, Pan American College. After being accredited a university, the institution was renamed Pan American University in 1971 and then University of Texas Pan American in 1989. In Brownsville, the Junior College of the Lower Rio Grande Valley was established in 1926. After the creation of the Southmost Union Junior College District in 1945, it was renamed Texas Southmost College. In 1973, a local four-year extension program through Pan American University was established and Pan American University-Brownsville was born. In 1991, Pan American University-Brownsville became independent from Pan American University and UT Brownsville emerged. That same year, UTB formed a partnership with Texas Southmost College, which lasted until 2011. UT Brownsville separated from TSC and became autonomous. In 2013, the UT Rio Grande Valley was founded after the merger of UTB and UTPA. The institution opened its doors on Aug. 31, 2015.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MARIO GONZALEZ

2. UTRGV location

Many students think that UTRGV only includes facilities in Edinburg and Brownsville. However, the university owns a total of 550 acres in Brownsville, Edinburg, Harlingen, McAllen, Rio Grande City and South Padre Island.

3. Student population

This semester, 27,715 students are enrolled at UTRGV, of whom 3,954 are entering freshmen.

4. Motto

The official motto of UTRGV is “Disciplina Praesidium Civitatis” or “Cultivated mind is the guardian genius of democracy.”

5. School of Medicine

The UTRGV School of Medicine opened its doors in the summer of 2016. Fifty-five students were welcomed into the first class.

6. Official colors

The official colors of UTRGV are

orange, gray, green and navy.

7. Student food pantry

The UTRGV food pantry helps students who are struggling to meet their nutrition needs.

8. Official mascot

The official mascot of UTPA was Bucky the Bronc and for UTB it was Ozzie the Ocelot; the official mascot of UTRGV is the Vaquero.

9. Founding president

Guy Bailey was appointed

president of UTRGV on April 28, 2014.

10. Student Media

The UTRGV Student Media department consists of four programs: Pulse magazine, which publishes once a year; UTRGV-TV, which produces a weekly newscast on YouTube; UTRGV Radio, which streams live at utrgv.edu/studentmedia/radio; and *The Rider* newspaper, which publishes weekly.

What should I major in?

Throughout this academic year, The Rider will explore the programs of study at UTRGV. This is the third in a series. The Rider interviewed Frederic Zaidan, Biology department chair .

Major: Biology

School: College of Sciences

Chair of the Department: Frederic Zaidan

Prerequisites: General Biology I and II, General Chemistry I and II, Organic Chemistry I and Statistics

Total credit hours needed to graduate: 120

What is biology? “Biology is the study of life, so anything that’s living falls under our jurisdiction. Within biology you can either take an organismal approach or a phenomenon approach. You have students and faculty that are primarily interested in the organisms. That’s typically where the interests start, but then there are the phenomenon areas of study. Ecology, physiology, genetics, evolution, behavior and cell and molecular work are all these various other disciplines within there. We really look at how all the organisms function. That’s really what biology is. It is how different levels and the environment are affecting how the individual organism functions, to wrap it up into a whole big package.”

Which classes should students expect to take?

“Well, we are in an interesting phase because of the students we have, UTB legacy, UTPA legacy and the UTRGV students. We are working with three different degree plans. For the UTRGV students, ecology, evolution and genetics are required. Those are also usually used by the legacy students, so those are the three courses you can expect to take whether you’ve been here a while, or you are brand new. There’s also a biological communications class, where we teach them how to write and speak like a biologist; that’s required of the UTPA and UTRGV students. From there, we divide up biology into various groups so students get exposure to the main areas. Once you leave here with your degree, you will have a basic understanding of all the major areas.”

What are some possible careers with this degree?

“There is a huge list of things you can do with a biology degree. Sort of the most popular ones are going on for more school. A lot of folks go the teaching route. Others go on to work with the local natural areas. [U.S.] Fish and Wildlife, Texas Parks and Wildlife, birding centers, things like that. There are always more lab-based positions out there. There aren’t many in the Valley currently, but I would expect with what we are

See **MAJOR**, Page 10

CLUB SPOTLIGHT



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Members of the Catholic Campus Ministry-Brownsville gather around Father Jesus Paredes (center) after the club’s first Mass celebration last Thursday at the Texas Southmost College Gazebos.

Name: Catholic Campus Ministry-Brownsville

Purpose: The Catholic Campus Ministry-Brownsville is the presence and promoter of the Catholic faith among students of higher education, empowering students through servant leadership, faith formation, fellowship and resources.

President: Yolanda Vidana

Vice president: Daniela Rojas

Secretary: Aylen Leal

Treasurer: Pablo Garcia

Assistant: Johnny Diaz

Internal adviser: Ana B. Perez, Career Center assistant director of student employment

External adviser: Karla Rodriguez, Campus Ministry coordinator

Activities: Weekly Mass, daily prayer, Eucharistic adoration, formation classes, spiritual direction, community service and gatherings.

Meetings: Noon Thursday

Membership requirements: \$5 dues per semester.

For more information: visit the Newman Catholic Student Center at 1910 University Blvd., call 541-9697 or email ccmbrownsville@gmail.com.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/utbccm>

--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza

Want your club featured? Email us at TheRider@utrgv.edu or call us at 882-5143 in Brownsville and 665-2541 in Edinburg!

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Llegan las Fiestas Patrias a UTRGV

Conmemoran la Independencia de México

Rebeca Ortiz
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

Entre decoraciones verdes, blancas y rojas; risas y música ranchera, la Fiesta Patria conmemorativa de la Independencia de México auspiciada por UTRGV comenzó.

Ofrecida por la Comisión de Programaciones del Campus, la Oficina de Participación Escolar y el Departamento de Estudios México Americanos, la celebración tomó lugar el miércoles pasado en el Gran Salón del campus Brownsville y el jueves pasado en el campus Edinburg.

“El propósito de Fiestas Patrias es celebrar un poco la cultura mexicana, ya que en nuestra institución la mayoría somos hispanos, ya que no celebrarlo sería una injusticia para los estudiantes”, dijo Daniela Venegas, asesora de Programa Estudiantil-Comisión de Programación del Campus.

Venegas dijo que es importante celebrar la independencia de México y lo que pasó la madrugada del 16 de septiembre de 1810 en el pueblo de Dolores Hidalgo, Guanajuato.

“Más que nada, es una fecha importante para nosotros culturalmente”, dijo ella. “Es una fecha que no la dejamos de celebrar, es tradición aquí en la universidad”.

El Mariachi Zacatecas y el Ballet Folklórico de UTRGV fueron los encargados de amenizar el ambiente. El folklórico, que de momento se encuentra dando un tour por el país, se presentó en Atlanta, Ga., el viernes y en Birmingham, Ala., el sábado. El tour comenzó el 10 de septiembre en Rio Grande City y concluirá el 16 de diciembre en la ciudad de Hobbs, N.M.

A su vez los concursos del grito, de más tacos y más jalapeños por minuto tomaron lugar. Los ganadores de dichos concursos fueron, Samuel



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/ FOTOS RIDER

Mariachi Zacatecas toca enfrente de estudiantes de UTRGV en el evento de Fiestas Patrias en el campus Brownsville el pasado miercoles.

Vallejo, estudiante de administración de empresas; Saúl López, estudiante de ingeniería biomédica y José Ledezma, estudiante de música respectivamente.

Nayeebah Mejía, estudiante de primer año de enfermería, dijo parecerle un muy buen evento ya que “la mayoría de nosotros es descendiente mexicano y

es buena idea darnos a conocer nuestra historia y hacernos involucrar con el resto de la escuela”.

Al evento asistieron aproximadamente 300 personas, quienes disfrutaron de los tradicionales tamales, elotes, fruta picada y aguas frescas.

“Es una buena idea, nos acerca a nuestras raíces y nos ayuda a tener un mejor entendimiento de lo que nuestros ancestros pasaron, de lo que México tuvo que pasar para ganar su independencia”, dijo Mejía.

A su vez, Julie Gonzalez, estudiante de educación especial, dijo saber que esta es una fecha muy especial para México y que al vivir tan cerca en la frontera “es importante que la escuela haga estas fiestas porque de esa manera podemos demostrar lo orgullosos que estamos de nuestras raíces mexicanas”.

Venegas recomienda a los estudiantes que sigan involucrándose en los distintos eventos porque eso ayuda para sus experiencias universitarias.



Miembro del Mariachi Zacatecas abre el concurso del grito durante el evento de Fiestas Patrias.



José Ledezma, estudiante de música, ganó el concurso de comer más jalapeños por minuto.

LNG
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from many of the senators. The final decision, however, was that we felt that as faculty we needed to be more educated about the issue. What we ended up doing is establishing a small committee to research both sides of the issue and they'll come back and share that at our October meeting."

Morgan said she presented the issue to the senate. The appointed committee will present its report during the senate's Oct. 7 meeting at the UTRGV Regional Academic Health Center in Harlingen, she said.

"We support, of course, our president in signing MOUs with companies, you know, to establish partnerships with the university; we support that," she said. "It was just the timing of this particular one and that there was not a lot of faculty input into this."

The Rider received a copy of the MOU from Gonzales last Wednesday. It states that the university and NextDecade "wish to cooperate in promoting energy, engineering and technology related education, and research and job training opportunities for UTRGV students in the Rio Grande Valley region thereby promoting broader social and economic development."

Under the agreement, the university

and NextDecade may investigate cooperation initiatives to achieve the goals. The initiatives include: --address critical needs in the energy industry for engineering and technology and other graduates specializing in energy

--promote opportunities for applied research, education, training and installations at the Port of Brownsville, UTRGV and the ND projects

--encourage development of internship programs within the energy, engineering and technology industries

--foster the recruitment, retention and development of students in science, technology, engineering and math ("STEM") subjects.

The MOU states it "does not create a partnership, joint venture, or relationship of trust or agency between the parties" and will be effective for three years, with an option to extend the term upon written agreement by both parties.

A copy of the MOU is available at utrgvrider.com.

The Rider asked Gonzales why the news media was not invited to the signing of the MOU.

"It was just an intimate setting," he replied. "It was very early in the morning, but we knew we were going to send out a press release. There are several, you

know, other MOU signings that [don't] require media invitation."

The idea of the agreement was "spearheaded" by Alexander Domijan, dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science, Gonzales said.

"I believe he had conversations with NextDecade and as those discussions progressed, the possibility of partnering with them and all the benefits for our students began to arrive," he said. "I guess that's where the idea started."

The Rider tried to contact Domijan last Tuesday. Domijan requested the newspaper work with Gonzales for further information.

Gonzales told *The Rider* via email that conversations with NextDecade began in late spring, when the developer was conducting talks with various educational institutions across the Rio Grande Valley.

NextDecade announced on Sept. 7 that the U.S. Energy Department authorized the export of liquefied natural gas from its proposed Rio Grande LNG facility to Free Trade Agreement countries.

"We have to have license from the [U.S.] Department of Energy to export natural gas overseas," James Markham-Hill, NextDecade, LLC manager of Communications, told *The Rider* in a phone interview last Thursday. "Last year, we submitted an application with the DOE for an export license to export to FTA countries and then as well to non-

FTA countries." Markham-Hill said the company is expecting the Energy Department to make its decision on the non-FTA permit in mid-2017, once the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission process has been completed.

Bridget Bartol, deputy press secretary of the Energy Department's Office of Public Affairs, told *The Rider* via email that countries with FTAs are Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea and Singapore.

"I don't think a lot of people really recognize how big of an economic impact our project will have to the Rio Grande Valley," Markham-Hill said. "At full build is a potentially \$15-to-\$20 billion project and that makes it not one of the largest investments but *the* largest proposed private investment anywhere in the state of Texas."

The Rider tried to contact SAVE RGV from LNG, a group that opposes the project, and the UTRGV Environmental Awareness Club, which launched a protest Sept. 8 on the Edinburg campus, but as of press time, neither group had responded.

Students aren't the only members of the campus community who ride the shuttle.

"Faculty and staff make up about 4 percent of the total ridership," Gomez said.

Some U T R G V students are complaining that they are not able to attend classes they already paid for or U T R G V student organization meetings because there aren't enough shuttles. "I had an important meeting at 9 a.m. from an organization and I won't be able



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

College of Health Affairs Senator Tyler Gonzalez speaks with special education senior Mayda Cortez (from left), biology graduate Yossellyn Huerta and biology senior Jasbeth Resendes after the State of the Student Body Address.

SGA
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

up a meeting with the student to solve the problem.

"I think the concept of concerns has a very negative connotation ... but we are starting to realize that they really are opportunities to make the university a lot better," said Peter Averack, SGA vice president for the Edinburg campus. "We need to hear what [students] have to say."

IPHONE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

without it, the company is able to fit new or more components into its devices. Aside from space, the benefits of moving from an analog to a digital interface are many. It is known that the audio output from smartphones lacks power. No matter how great headphones are, they will not perform to their full potential because the digital-to-analog converter (DAC) in smartphones is not powerful enough. A DAC or headphone amp is a piece of hardware that will process the digital information of audio files and transform it to an analog audio signal that headphones can receive. Because the Lightning port is a digital interface, it will be able to power headphones from the phone itself. In theory, it should increase the quality of audio in a way that was only possible through an external piece

of hardware for headphones.

The benefits of using a digital interface such as the Lightning port in headphones include the reproduction of lossless audio, user programmed audio profiles, active noise cancellation, among others that would require buying external hardware for traditional headphones.

Currently, the market offers a few Lightning headphones, and while they are expensive at the moment, they will eventually get less expensive as this new technology becomes standard.

While not the first to ditch the headphone jack, Apple certainly made the most noise for doing it. Maybe in a few years every phone manufacturer will sell phones without a headphone jack. It may be too early to determine, but it is no secret that Apple has been one of the few companies willing to take these kinds of risks in the past.

Visit us online at
utrgvrider.com

SHUTTLE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The mother of a student who contacted *The Rider* and asked not to be identified, said her son boards the Vaquero Express Connector Shuttle in Harlingen to attend classes on the Edinburg campus; however, sometimes by the time the shuttle arrives in Harlingen, it is already full.

"We want to increase capacity," Gomez said. "We are trying to get four additional units and we are also in the process of hiring more drivers."

He said it takes a couple of months to get the vehicles.

Parking and Transportation Services has five full-time drivers and 11 part-time drivers, including five who are students.

"If students are interested in driving with us, we can certainly use the additional help," Gomez said. "They can apply through Career Connection."

"We want to be able to provide the best service that we can and we certainly keep trying to make it better for students since that is our primary concern."

Rodney Gomez
Parking and Transportation Director

to make it just because the shuttle is full," Valladares said.

Other students say they are arriving late to classes, which could affect their academic progress.

"I remember when the shuttle first started coming out. I tried it out, but I ended up being late to class," said Michelle Garcia, a computer science senior on the Brownsville campus. "You can't use that excuse with the professors. You can't be like, 'My bus was late.' It's not high school anymore."

She added, "If we are going to have a shuttle service it should be efficient toward to our needs."

Gomez is asking the campus community to be patient.

"We want to be able to provide the best service that we can and we certainly keep trying to make it better for students since that is our primary concern," he said.

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Ghana women bring game to UTRGV

Life on and off the field for international student-athletes

Bryan Ramos
THE RIDER

More than 6,400 miles from home, in a country you've never been, playing the game you love. That is the reality for freshmen student-athletes Diana Ansah and Sarah Bonney who joined the UTRGV women's soccer program from the West African country of Ghana over the summer.

The Ghanaian pair's opportunity arose in the form of a 75-girl tryout in front of women's Head Soccer Coach Glad Bugariu and Assistant Coach Silviu Telespan that would be trimmed down to the top five. Of the five, only two would earn a shot to play Division I soccer in Edinburg. Ansah and Bonney, who met at 17 years old, seized the opportunity, showcasing their skills and abilities enough to impress the UTRGV women's soccer coaches.

Coach Bugariu explained the process of finding international talent like Ansah and Bonney.

"Our recruiting theory has always been 'start locally and expand globally.' So, we're always looking everywhere we can for players who can help get us closer to those top teams in our conference," Bugariu said. "We're looking for attacking players, like Sarah, who can change the game, change the pace when we put her in; then we look for multifunctional players like Diana, who can play multiple positions, both players who can impact the game and have a good future here."

Bonney, who hails from Winneba, Ghana, and ranks third on the team in shots on goal with 14, admitted she had to adapt to the style and speed of the game played here in the states, a challenge that she has accepted with a smile.

"The only difference is the



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Forward Sarah Bonney and midfielder Diana Ansah are shown during practice last Thursday at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex in Edinburg.

standard here is a bit higher than compared in my country," she said. "The ball moves faster, so when I came out I adjust myself to be faster. That was my only problem in the beginning but I'm cool now, I'm in. My style is I'm fast, I'll just go by you and I think coach saw that in me. I normally come off the bench, but when I come in I do my best, I do what I do. I haven't scored yet but the goals will come."

Ansah, who is from Oseikrom,

Ashanti, Ghana, was in school when she heard about the tryout. She took a break for her shot at playing Division I soccer collegiately in the U.S. She said the biggest adjustment she's had to make is juggling the responsibilities that come with being a student-athlete.

"Academics and soccer, it's very different, it's a huge task," Ansah said. "Back in Ghana, when I was in school, we played our games during vacations; we don't play while school is in

progress. It's kind of difficult but I have [to] make it if I want to achieve it."

Coming from Ghana to the U.S., specifically the Rio Grande Valley, there is a drastic difference in culture and lifestyle.

"First, I will talk about the weather," Bonney said. "It's still hot. It's different. In my country, when it is around 6, it's almost dark, but here, when

See **GHANA**, Page 10

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER

Name: Krysta Martinez
Sport: Cross-country
Classification: Freshman
Major: Kinesiology

Age: 19

Hometown: Edcouch-Elsa

Who is your favorite athlete? "[Usain] Bolt because he's fast and motivates me to go faster. I kind of want to be like him."

Who is your role model?

"I would say my role model is [Allyson] Felix. She runs mid-distance, but she runs kind of like the way I run. I want to be like her and Bolt, you know. I want to be up there."

What was the best advice you've been given and by whom? "My coaches from high school would always tell me to never give up, to keep pushing myself, and run my race."

When did you begin running cross-country, and why? "I started my seventh-grade year. I wanted to try it out, so I got in just to get in. I saw my cousin run, so I was like, 'I'll try it out.' Seventh grade, I tried out cross-country. I did good then and then just kept it up to get where I am right now."

Did you win any awards? "I won a couple of races in junior high and high school. I got third place my senior year at state in the mile."

What are your academic goals? "I want to do better here than I did in high school. In high school, I would get As, Bs and sometimes Cs; but here, I want to keep them all at As."

How do you feel about being part of this team? "It feels good because the team is really motivating. They motivate us freshmen to run faster, and they help us out a lot. Running with them makes me feel like I'm running in high school again because they remind me of my team from high school."

What are your personal goals for this season? "I want to break times like PR, and do good as a team. I just want to win conference."

--Compiled by Sarah Carvajal

Click here for your live sports



Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

It is a good thing it's harder to lose the mouse of your computer than the remote for your TV.

Entertainment is moving to the web in a huge way. The best TV exclusives are on Netflix; if not, they are on HBO (with streaming capabilities). In 2014, the movie industry had its worst year in two decades for people attending theaters, according to CinemaBlend.com.

The industry that felt for a long time completely untouchable by streaming's popularity is live sports. Sports aren't something that can be pushed aside by the business models of companies like Netflix.

It still may be the industry that is the most resilient to business. Sports generate revenue from many different areas, like merchandise, ticket sales and league fees. TV, however, remains the largest piece of the pie when it comes down to money in sports. According to AdAge.com, the deal between

the National Hockey League and NBC is the lowest in the U.S., sitting at a cool \$2 billion.

ESPN is paying \$7.3 billion through 2025 to air the college football playoff.

Just because TV networks are paying outrageous fees to broadcast games live doesn't mean the format in which the action is delivered will remain constant.

Every eyeball counts when it comes to sports viewership. The billion-dollar TV deals happen because advertisers know that sports are the only true reality television. As long as games are unpredictable and free of scripts, they will continue to be the epitome of must-watch entertainment.

Fox, which has its hands on rights for the National Football League, college football, college basketball and Major League Baseball is a big streamer. Its service, Fox Sports Go, can be cast to televisions, laptops or phones using its website, although a cable or satellite subscription is still necessary.

ESPN's approach is similar but also offers partial service to those not connected to a cable

or satellite company, at cost.

Reports are conflicting regarding how fast people are abandoning their TV providers. Some say it's a slow and gradual decline, while other data from eMarketer, a market research company, states that by 2019 nearly a quarter of Americans won't have any subscription.

These "cable-cutters" are the demographic to look out for. ESPN already caters to them by offering its proprietary service. Being able to watch on mobile devices, or game consoles, helps extend the reach of live sports even without conventional means.

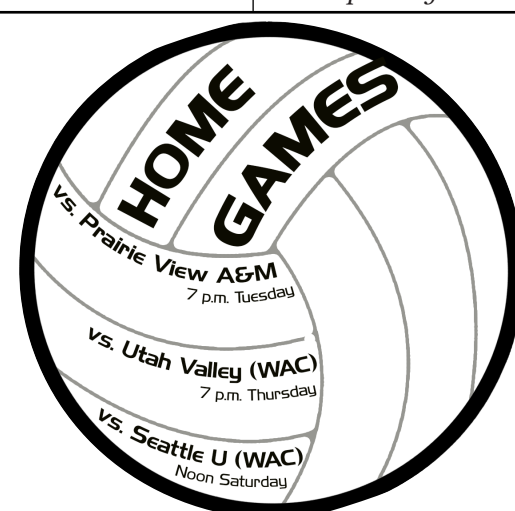
Now even sources that don't usually play into the equation of broadcasting sports are vying for a piece of the pie. Twitter announced this week that it will allow users (with and without accounts) to stream 10 live NFL games over the course of the season.

To me it just feels like a small step toward the future, where the apps we use to talk about sports will soon be used to also view them.

Amazon, the largest shopping

space on the web, also has expressed interest in getting into the streaming sports world.

For fans of sports, and fans of ditching the cable or satellite company, the competition for the streaming space should excite you. Many cable-cutters are reluctant to give up their sports but it seems like soon you'll be able to have the best of both worlds.



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MEGAN GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Branding territory



Workers install a UTRGV sign Sept. 12 outside the Student Union on the Brownsville campus. A similar sign has been installed on the Edinburg campus.

MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

MAJOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

doing with RGV, for that to grow.”

Which skills will students learn by the time they graduate? “We are very much pushing critical-thinking skills. You can learn the facts, but knowing how to use them is another thing. Our students will get those skills. Students will get experience with how science actually works with scientific method and techniques. Most classes have lab, so there’s going to be a lot of hands-on kind of work, and students will get skills in that. Because of the sometimes difficulty of the material, time management skills are going to be something that they will need to learn. They should get out of here with a greater appreciation for how living organisms and ecosystems work.”

What salary can a student expect to earn after graduation? “It is variable, but I would think in the \$30,000 to 60,000 range. That’s a reasonable guess. There are some people who end up with really good jobs and make quite a bit of money.”

Student clubs related to the major: “There’s quite a few. There is Tri-Beta [Biological Honor Society], various medical, dental and optometry clubs and environmental clubs. There are many ways for people to get involved.”

For more information: contact Zaidan at frederic.zaidan@utrgv.edu or call 665-3537.

--Compiled by Sarah Carvajal

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GHANA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

it’s 7, the sun is still out. It surprises me. Here, everywhere is clean as compared to my country, most places are untidy. There’s some many beautiful places here compared to my country.”

The Ghanaian women have worked to put themselves in position to succeed, as both were members of the U-20 Ghana National Team pool and previously of the U-17 pool, an honor that many seek but only few achieve.

“In our country, it’s an opportunity everybody is trying for, it’s like you’re targeting your aspirations so being a part of the national team pool was privilege,” Bonney said.

To be a part of the team is one thing, to start as a freshman is another. Ansah, who has started five games for the team early in the season, is grateful for the opportunity that sits in front of her.

“I feel it’s been great,” Ansah said. “Personally, starting for the team is a great opportunity for me. It’s an achievement. Coming all the way from Ghana to come and start here is not easy but I’ve been able to be with the first team, so I have to say thanks to God for making it all possible.”

Now in just the team’s third year, Ansah and Bonney hope to contribute to the growing program that has seen success early in the 2016 season, posting five straight shutouts and a 5-1-1 overall record. To keep up with the UTRGV women’s soccer team, visit GoUTRGV.com for the latest news and information.

POLINARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

and then third, service. I am currently doing research in the attitudes that Latinos have towards the Supreme Court, particularly with the nomination and confirmation of Sonia Sotomayor, who became the first Latina in the Supreme Court.”

What do you do for students? “My approach to the class is what they call a Socratic method. I am not a good lecturer. I fall asleep when I lecture. What I do is, basically, the classroom is a conversation and by asking questions that takes the part of the lecture. The facts, the students can find in the textbook. What I am more interested in is the why. Why is this? What’s the impact of this? As we look at this presidential election, it’s important that you all know how the Electoral College works. In different points of the semester we will look not so much of the characteristics of political parties, but what role do parties play and why or how important that is. I am more interested in not just how you answer the question why when I ask it, but very importantly when do you ask the question why. The overall goal is to work on critical-thinking skills, speaking, thinking and writing. If you think critically, you will be able to speak critically. Facts are important, but that is not what I emphasize.”

What classes do you teach? “I teach U.S. and Texas Government I & II for honors students, U.S. Constitutional Law, U.S. Judicial Process and I am a movie fanatic, so I developed a course in Film and Politics.”

What was the last book you read? “I am reading a book on the current Supreme Court and I can’t even remember what it’s called. It’s an analysis of [John] Roberts’ court since he is the chief justice. The book I read before that was a book called the ‘Bully Pulpit,’ and it looked at the relationship between Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft.”

What are some of the songs on your music playlist? “Oh gosh, I don’t have a playlist. I’m an old dude. For me, after Elvis Presley, shoot, it all went downhill. You know, forget the cockroaches. No, no The Beatles, that’s what they are called. I love Big Band music, the old Big Band sounds.”

What do you like to do on your free time?

“I enjoy the reading. I’m a movie fanatic, so I like to go to the movies. I just enjoy, in general, typical leisure stuff. I am the lead commissioner of the oldest fantasy football league in South Texas. I am very proud of that. We started before your folks were born, probably our first year was 1977. I get a kick out of looking back at that. You have heard me say it: ‘I’ve got the best job in the world.’ There is no better job than being a political science professor. We get to talk about the now. I like to pull the math colleagues, two plus two is always four. Next fall we won’t be talking about the presidential elections, we will be talking about something else. It always changes, and it always has a direct impact on our lives.”

Would you like to add anything else?

“Well, I was once asked by a friend who teaches at Duke, he said: ‘What would the title of your autobiography be?’ I said, ‘Luckiest Guy in the World.’ That is just the whole thing, the time period I have been growing up with. The period of the civil rights stuff and people on the moon. Then we have the incredible impact of social media and the internet, to see that change. [Former Supreme Court Associate Justice] Felix Frankfurter once said, ‘Technological change always results in social change.’ And, right now it proves that more than anything he has ever done. So, I mean look at social media. Your concept of privacy is so totally different from the previous student generation. Somebody can always get a hold of you by texting you. It is just a totally different view of how we relate to each other and that is so fascinating to watch. Again, there is no better place to watch it than being in a university environment, even though that it’s changing. I always say I am a dinosaur because every semester we brag about increasing the number of online classes. In another generation, your kids will probably not have classrooms like this or be sitting in an office with a teacher. That aspect of technology is inevitable because it is cheaper for the state, and the students, but still watching the evolution, it is just so interesting. I can’t think of another profession that is always on cutting edge because that’s you all. I am the variable. I’m always older, you all are always the same: 18,19, 20, 21.”



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REVIEW

Some wisdom in ‘Wit’

Camille Playhouse opens 53rd season

Mario Gonzalez
THE RIDER

As someone who knew nothing about the play, “Wit,” leaving the theater while drying out a few teardrops from my eyes signifies how impactful it was for me.

Directed by Chris Ikner, the famous play by American playwright Margaret Edson opened the 53rd season of the Camille Playhouse Sept. 2 in Brownsville. The plot centers on Vivian Bearing (portrayed by Ana Laura Chavez), a university literature professor diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

As a patient in a hospital, Vivian is supervised by Dr. Harvey Kelekian, played by Ricky Garza, and mostly by his assistant and her former student Dr. Jason Posner (William Abete).

Dr. Harvey notifies Vivian that her cancer will require an experimental chemotherapeutic treatment. As the play progresses, the audience sees how Vivian becomes less of a patient and more of a research tool in the eyes of the doctors.

Garza portrays Kelekian as a cold and strict doctor in a way that made me realize how much of a business the medical industry can be sometimes. In contrast to Dr. Kelekian’s time on stage, Dr. Posner takes a more active role in the development of the narrative. Abete’s performance as a younger and at times awkward doctor made for a couple of comedic moments



PHOTO COURTESY CAMILLE PLAYHOUSE

Vivian Bearing (portrayed by Ana Laura Chavez) lays unconscious in a hospital bed while her literature mentor, E.M. Ashford (portrayed by Kathy Raines) enters the scene. The production of “Wit” opened the 53rd season of the Camille Playhouse in Brownsville.

between him and Vivian, which allowed for a balance in the tone of the play.

During her time in the hospital, Vivian reflects about mortality and the meaning of her life. She references the sonnets of her favorite English poet, John Donne, multiple times as it becomes clear to her that she had

been living a lonely life devoted to her academic work. During her last days in the hospital, she realizes the importance of building meaningful relationships.

Throughout the play, the audience sees how the progression of the illness influences how Vivian reflects about her life as a whole. The scenes take

place in her hospital room and by flashbacks to some of her memories.

In her flashbacks, Vivian speaks to her literature mentor, E.M. Ashford, played by Kathy Raines. She recalls the time her mentor criticized the structure of one of her papers. In another scene, we see a flashback to a 5-year-old Vivian reading a tale with her father. In it, we see Vivian struggle to understand the meaning of a word. Her father, also played by Ricky Garza, explains its meaning and she is able to understand the tale with clarity. She remembers it as the foundation of her love for words.

One of her most recent flashbacks takes place in her classroom. Here, we see Vivian taking on the role of a tough professor as she is seen questioning the intellect of some of her students.

Her lonely life serves as a lesson for the audience to re-evaluate the importance of developing bonds with the people we care for.

I was touched by the last moments of the play. Ana Laura Chavez left me positively captivated throughout the entire play. I will not reveal any details of the final act but I believe it will impact anyone who sees it.

The play closed on Sept. 11, but the Camille Playhouse has six more productions this season. The next one is “The Addams Family,” which opens Oct. 21. For more information, visit camilleplayhouse.net/shows.

An enchanting evening



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Yuri Maria Saenz enchants the audience with her voice as she performs “Mira que soy niña,” written by Enrique Granados. Yuri was accompanied by UTRGV pianist and Lecturer Shoko Kinsella last Tuesday at the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

Notes and nature



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Andrew Mendoza, lead singer for the band In Shades, performs at the Frontera Audubon’s acoustic night on the lawn. Musicians were invited to perform acoustic sets last Tuesday as an audience sat on the lawn of Frontera Audubon in Weslaco, where food was sold and donations were accepted.

Ride Along

By Clarissa Martinez

Hunger Games: Vaquero Express Edition



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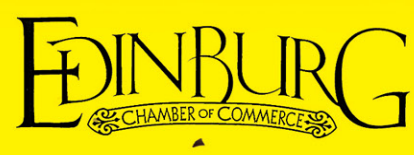


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\$60

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COURTYARD**
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**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 15**

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All proceeds benefit the restoration of Edinburg's Historical buildings



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