

THE RIDER

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SPORTS



Serbian volleyball trio

Life on and off the field for international student-athletes
 >> Page 9

ON CAMPUS



From service to college

UTRGV veterans services ease transition for former military
 >> Page 3

A & E



Professors perform

School of Music to showcase faculty members tonight
 >> Page 11

ESPAÑOL



‘Ratones de campo’

Autora Emma González ofrece lectura de su nuevo libro
 >> Página 8

INDEX

Announcements.....Page 2
 Police Reports.....Page 2
 Opinion.....Page 4
 Club Spotlight.....Page 5
 Coach of the Week.....Page 9
 Comic.....Page 11

Students complain about GPA errors

Andrea Torres
 THE RIDER

While reviewing her undergraduate GPA through UTB Online in early August, Liza Berrout noticed that it was higher than what was reflected on her UTRGV transcript.

“It was different by, like, .3 or .2, like, it was significant,” said Berrout, who is now a graduate student in biology at UTRGV. “It was the same classes but they weren’t counting them the same.”

She is among several students who have complained to university officials about the academic record errors.

When Berrout noticed the difference, she contacted Associate University Registrar Jerry Martinez.



ANA CAHUICHE/ THE RIDER

Aurora Benavides, who has an associate’s degree in respiratory therapy checks her transfer credits to enroll at UTRGV last Thursday at The Tower in Brownsville.

In his email reply to Berrout, *Rider*, Martinez wrote: “We identified the errors and we’ll

update your record. Sorry for the confusion.”

Although the error was fixed through ASSIST, a site that provides a variety of online services to students regarding registration, financial aid, payment and grades, Berrout said she still does not see the correction in Career Connection, the university’s online job search portal.

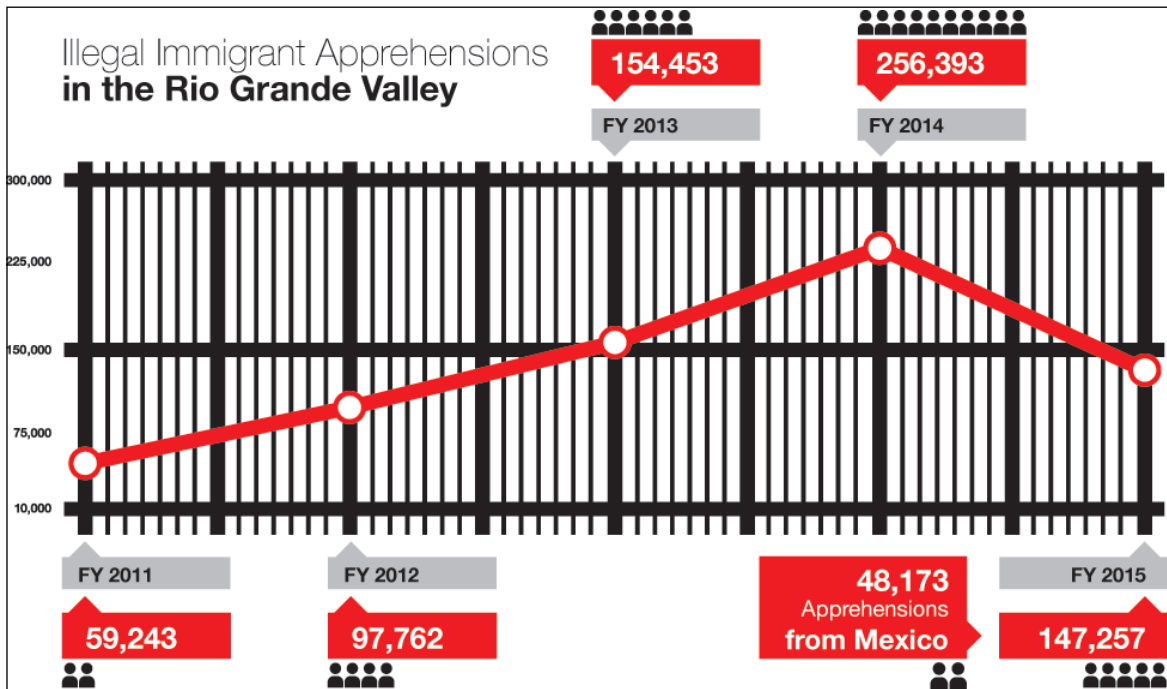
Lourdes Servantes, associate director of the Career Center, said in an interview that the center updates each student’s information as it is needed, either weekly or daily. The center updates a student’s GPA based on a document it receives from the Registrar’s Office.

“Usually, when the system

See **GPA**, Page 10

Stats show illegal crossing is down

ICE deports 235,413 undocumented immigrants; 59% had previous convictions



Oscar Castillo
 NEWS EDITOR

Building a border wall and having Mexico pay for it has been Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump’s main platform since his campaign announcement in 2015;

Countdown to Election Day
 Second in a series

however, experts say it won’t happen.

Trump met with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto on Aug. 31, before speaking at a rally in Arizona, where he laid out his plan on illegal immigration.

See **WALL**, Page 10

STARGATE promotes entrepreneurship

Nubia Reyna
 THE RIDER

UTRGV physics doctoral student Louis Dartez gave a presentation on STARGATE and the company the program has created, SG Surveillance, as well building a space exploration “corridor” between Brownsville and Houston.

“STARGATE has a mandate from the state to produce and help companies nurture this culture down here, meaning that if you have a company or idea, then by the end of next year ... once that building is up, then STARGATE will have everything in place to help you come through the incubator

system and get you [on] your feet,” Dartez told an audience of about more than two dozen people who gathered last Tuesday at Code RGV in the WorkPub in Brownsville.

The Spacecraft Tracking and Astronomical Research into Giga-hertz Astrophysical Transient Emission, or STARGATE, is a public/private partnership between SpaceX and the Center for Advanced Radio Astronomy (CARA) at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley,

On July 24, the partnership created SG Surveillance, a company founded by two

See **STARGATE**, Page 2



ANA CAHUICHE/ THE RIDER

Louis Dartez, chief operations officer of SG Surveillance Inc., speaks about STARGATE’s projects with SpaceX during the CodeRGV event last Tuesday.

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.

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YOUR NEWS IN ONE PLACE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

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. at the Student Union in Edinburg. For more information, call 882-5034.

Free flu shots

UTRGV Health Services will administer free flu shots to students, faculty and staff from 8 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at its clinics, located in Cortez Hall 237 on the Brownsville campus and at 613 N. Sugar Rd. on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call Office Assistant Beverly Estrada at 882-3896.

Free ice cream

Staff from the Student Union will offer free ice cream to UTRGV students from noon to 1 p.m. in the Main Courtyard in Brownsville. For more information, call 665-7989.

Kayaking, paddleboarding classes

The Texas Southmost College Rec Center will offer intro to kayaking and paddleboarding classes from 5:30 to 7 tonight at the Recreation Center pool in Brownsville. The classes will be held at the same time and place every Monday. For more information, call 882-7176.

Tuesday

Multimedia recital

Patron of the Arts will present a multimedia recital from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. The recital will feature Daniel Hunter-Holly, a baritone and UTRGV associate professor, who will perform Fauré’s and Debussy’s settings of Paul Verlaine, Francis Poulenc and Paul Éluard’s tribute to 20th century masters Picasso, Chagall, Miró, poems by Gene Scheer and music by Jake Heggie. For tickets and more information, visit

patron.utrgv.edu/events.

Wednesday

Walk-a-thon

The UTRGV Collegiate Recovery Program will host a walk-a-thon in observance of National Recovery Month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Student Union in Edinburg. In Brownsville, this event will be take place at the same time Thursday on the Student Union lawn.

Wellness Wednesday

The Texas Southmost College Rec Center and University Recreation will offer free wellness checks to the UTRGV and TSC community every first Wednesday of the month during the fall semester. Blood pressure, body mass index and body fat percentage will be checked. The next session is scheduled Oct. 5. For more information, call 882-7176.

Thursday

Art studio inauguration

The Main Street District of Brownsville will inaugurate the B&E Art Studio from 6 to 8 p.m. at 801 International Blvd., Suite D. The studio will offer art workshops and hold exhibitions. For more information, call 525-9679.

Graduate school info sessions

The Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship will offer an information session from 6 to 8 p.m. in Sabal Hall 1.106 on the Brownsville campus. Information about admission requirements, financial aid and scholarship availability will be presented. For more information, call 665-3661 or visit http://www.utrgv.edu/graduate/index.htm.

Food sales

Burgers

Members of the Society for Human Resource Management will sell

burgers from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday at the Library BBQ Area in Edinburg. For more information, email shrmgrv@gmail.com.

Members of Christians at RGV will sell burgers from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday at the Library BBQ Area in Edinburg. For more information, call 577-5539.

Pizza

Members of the Japanese Animation Club at UTRGV will sell pizza from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday on the Quad 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 on the Mathematics and General Classroom lawn in Edinburg. For more information, call 665-2660.

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

Bubble tea

Members of the Filipino Student Association at UTRGV will sell bubble tea from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday at the Library in Edinburg. For more information, call 507-0372.

Raspas

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

Hot dogs

Members of the Economics Society at UTRGV will sell hot dogs from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday on the Mathematics and General Classroom lawn in Edinburg. For more information, call 665-2660.

--Compiled by Monika Garza

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Sept. 12 and 18.

Sept. 12

5:34 p.m.: A faculty member reported that she could smell something burning near the faculty offices in the Education Building. She said the smell had been persistent for 30 minutes. The faculty member and public safety officers were unable to determine the source of the smell. The Edinburg Fire Department arrived, discovered that burnt popcorn was the source and determined the building was safe.

Sept. 13

1:39 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to the Science Building’s construction site due to a construction worker puncturing a gas line with a backhoe. The site and the Health and Education I Building were evacuated. The Edinburg Fire Department shut off the gas line and cleared the area for re-entry.

STARGATE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

UTRGV graduate students and one undergraduate, along with more than five faculty members.

Dartez said the company designs and develops technologies to be able to collect data and monitor areas where infrastructure that would usually be used for these services does not exist.

“We already are incorporated and right now we are looking for funding,” said Dartez, who is the chief operations officer of SG Surveillance. “We are getting funding from different agencies.”

In November, founders will present the company to the city of Brownsville.

“This is exactly what the city of Brownsville needs to be able to stimulate and nurture the startup culture that we are all so excited about,” he said.

STARGATE’s idea is to open a corridor

Sept. 14

9:33 a.m.: While two female students were driving to the Brownsville campus, a man followed them. When they parked in lot B1, the man drove close and kept staring at them. The students reported the incident to UTRGV Police after class.

Sept. 15

8:19 p.m.: A mother reported that her 19-year-old son, a UTRGV student, was missing. The student had left personal belongings in his mother’s residence. He was last seen leaving his residence on foot, off-campus. The mother filed the missing person report with the Brownsville Police Department, while the UTRGV Police Department is providing support as needed.

Sept. 16

5:55 p.m.: In Heritage Hall, a resident assistant reported two separate odors of

between Brownsville and Houston.

“The Houston Technology Center is going to have an office down here in Brownsville helping the startup culture and the Rio Grande Valley get [on] their feet, especially if your startup has anything to do with space exploration or technology that can be transportable to those fields,” he said.

STARGATE will be housed in a large laboratory and incubator building 75 feet from the command control center of SpaceX at Boca Chica Beach.

“In there, we will have Google offices, NASA offices, and an office for the Houston Technology Center,” he said.

Fredrick Jenet, director and creator of STARGATE, said SG Surveillance is going to promote the concept of entrepreneurship, specifically entrepreneurship in the new space sector.

“Our main purpose is to get people

marijuana coming from two dorm rooms. After consent was granted, the first room on the north wing was searched, but no narcotics were found. Marijuana residue and a burnt cigarette were found on the floor. The resident admitted he smoked earlier. Afterward, the second room on the east wing, was searched. A man admitted he had marijuana in his possession. He was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana and was booked into the Edinburg Municipal Jail.

Sept. 18

11:55 a.m.: A student at the Casa Bella student housing complex reported feeling ill. Brownsville Emergency Medical Services arrived and she agreed to be transported to the hospital for a medical evaluation. The student contacted her mother and notified her of the incident.

--Compiled by Megan Gonzalez

thinking about developing technologies for space,” Jenet said.

He also said that STARGATE students are involved as high-level executives in SG Surveillance.

“We have a chief operating officer, chief financial officer, and the chief technical officer of the new company, so they are now developing the business plan and the business model,” he said.

Jenet hopes the company inspires many more students in the region to also create companies and work with them in this new space initiative.

In related news, SpaceX founder, CEO and lead designer Elon Musk will discuss “the long-term technical challenges that need to be solved to support the creation of a permanent, self-sustaining human presence on Mars,” according to the SpaceX website. The presentation will be live-streamed between 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. Tuesday at spacex.com/webcast.

Jurassic comeback

Megan Gonzalez
THE RIDER

Sue, the largest and best-preserved Tyrannosaurus rex, is returning to the Edinburg campus on Thursday. The dinosaur's skeleton will be assembled by the facilities management staff and placed on exhibit until Jan. 8 in the Visitors Center on the Edinburg campus. From Thursday through October, more than 30,500 people are scheduled to visit Sue. The university will facilitate tours with more than 20 exhibit attendants and tour guides to lead visitors across the display. "We will accept walk-ins," said Krystal Marroquin, an outreach representative for Recruitment and Scholarships. "Of course, if they are bringing in a larger group, we do recommend that they make an appointment

because we have other groups already scheduled." In 2008, an estimated 60,000 people visited the campus to see the T. rex. UTRGV is hoping to reach that goal once again, with the help of Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology Week (HESTEC), which kicks off with Educator Day Oct. 3. "A lot of people should come out and see Sue," Marroquin said. "If they haven't or even if they did have an opportunity to see it when they were younger, just come and see it again. See the different perspective of when you were younger and now as an adult, how that changes in the exhibit." In the spring, different exhibits are being planned for the Festival of International Books and Arts (FESTIBA), an event that brings cultural awareness and art appreciation



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER

Sue, the Tyrannosaurus rex, will be assembled by the facilities management staff and placed on exhibit Thursday at the Visitors Center in Edinburg.

to the South Texas community. "They do want to bring something around the time of FESTIBA," Krystal said, "So, exhibits might be making a way back into the university." To register for the T. rex exhibit, visit www.utrgv.edu/gcr/departments/public_art/sue-exhibit/index.htm.

Grandmaster places 1st in tourney

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

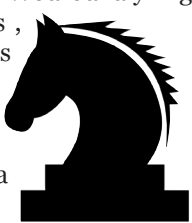
Grandmaster Andrey Stukopin, a junior physics student from Russia, won first place among 83 players from 20 countries in the 2016 U.S. Chess Masters, a tournament that took place Aug. 25 to 29 in Greensboro, NC. Three other members of the UTRGV Chess Team competed: Felix Ynojosa, who placed 24th; Guillermo Vazquez, 29th; and Carlos Hevia, 37th. "There were many, many good players," Coach Bartek Macieja said. "Andrey won a very strong tournament." The UTRGV Chess Team attends both national and Texas championships. "The teams from Texas are always the strongest," Macieja



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Physics junior and grandmaster Andrey Stukopin won first place in the U.S. Chess Masters tournament, which took place last month in Greensboro, N.C. said. "Our players are in very, very good shape." The team consists of eight team members and two alternates. They divide the members between A and B teams, with four players in each

in an interview with *The Rider*. Stukopin defeated Grandmaster Gata Kamsky, a five-time U.S. champion. "When I was a kid, he was already very famous," Stukopin said. "Some chess players were saying, 'Oh, you're gonna play against a legend.' ... Everyone in the chess world knows who Gata Kamsky is." Stukopin said that he was not planning to win the game, just trying to show his best. "After the realization [that I won the tournament] came to me, I felt excited," he said. The UTRGV Chess Team members are preparing for their next tournament, the Texas Super Finals Trophy, which will take place Oct. 21 in Dallas. "Our classes just started," Stukopin said. "We are analyzing openings, solving chess puzzles; we analyze everything together, it is a partnership."



Transitioning from military service to college

Monika Garza
THE RIDER



Esteban Alonso Ramos

UTRGV offers programs and services to help its more than 1,000 veterans transition to a university environment. Martin Rodriguez, director of the Military and Service Success Center at UTRGV, said veterans face difficult challenges from service to college, like adapting to student life, different schedules and personal issues. The Military and Veterans Success Center at UTRGV serves student veterans by providing counseling services for veterans, promoting student involvement and certifying educational benefits. For the veterans' dependents, the center offers a program called Chapter 35. Chapter 35 offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition. Rodriguez said there are about 1,100 veterans attending UTRGV. "[Veterans] receive either Veterans Affairs benefits or

the state-funded program called Hazlewood," Rodriguez said. The U.S. Veterans Affairs provides education services, life insurance and rehabilitation benefits to former servicemen and women. The Hazlewood Act provides qualified veterans and their dependents with an educational benefit of up to 150 hours of tuition exemption at public institutions of higher education in Texas. College is a different environment from what veterans are used to. Freshman Esteban Alonso Ramos, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps for five years, said he is glad "UTRGV has a place where we can go to every single step with guidance." Mentoring is one of the many benefits student veterans receive as they pursue their higher education goals. "The way we help veteran students to study on the Brownsville campus is that we have the Veterans Upward Bound program, which helps them academically," Rodriguez said. "In Edinburg, we have the Learning Center."

“UTRGV has a place where we can go to every single step with guidance.”
Esteban Alonso Ramos
UTRGV Freshman



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Jimena Rivera, a social work junior and instructional specialist in English, tutors Danny Rawls, a mathematics junior, at the Veterans Upward Bound office in the Student Union in Brownsville. The Veterans Upward Bound program motivates and assists veterans through mentoring, tutoring, counseling and academic instruction in the core subject areas such as composition, literature, pre-calculus, science and foreign language. "In the Army there is like a structure. You know what is going to happen for the rest of the time you are there and in college it's different," said Danny Rawls, a mathematics junior who served in the U.S. Army. "But, I found the Veterans Upward Bound program at UTRGV and I made like a 'home' here."

UTRGV Police:
No foul play
in student's death
Reprinted from utrgvrider.com
Jesus Sanchez
and Brenda Garza
THE RIDER

UTRGV Police Chief Raul Munguia confirmed that a 20-year-old Hispanic male student was found dead last Wednesday at The Village apartments in Edinburg. "Upon touch, it was evident that the subject was deceased," Munguia said during a news conference last Wednesday. "Our department right now is conducting an investigation. It does not appear at this stage of the investigation that there's any foul play." He said the death appears to have been from natural causes. The last time the student was seen alive was around 7 p.m. Tuesday, the chief said. Munguia said the medical examiner has removed the body and will conduct an autopsy. "It'll be several weeks before we get the report back," he said. "Once we get that initial report, it will assist us with our investigation."

Patrick Gonzales, assistant vice president of University Marketing and Communications, said UTRGV Police received a call at 11:54 a.m. "Our police department received a call of a subject down in one of the rooms at The Village apartments," Gonzales said. "We are not revealing the name of the student until we get permission from the parents." He said the parents of the student have been notified. "The medical examiner pronounced the student deceased," Gonzales said. "There's no foul play suspected. ... The reason for that is that there seems to be no evidence of a struggle. The apartment was in immaculate condition. ... The body was actually found by a roommate who quickly called the police." Gonzales said: "As a UTRGV community, we're obviously saddened by this news. We ask the campus community to keep the student's family and friends in your prayers. We encourage any students who need any type of grievance counseling to contact our counseling center." The UTRGV Counseling Center phone number is 882-3897 in Brownsville and 665-2574 in Edinburg.

Vaquero Voice

UTRGV transportation services



“Yo voy a Edinburg martes y jueves y siempre se llena el autobús y mucha gente se ha quejado de que los que no caben los dejan y al último pasa un autobús como 20 minutos o hasta una hora tarde y no alcanzan a llegar a sus clases. También, siempre tenemos que andar peleando por nuestro asiento. Si nos cobran tanto dinero deberían de darnos más transporte porque nosotros no pedimos juntarnos con Edinburg, o si no que ofrezcan más clases aquí y no allá”.
Marylin Montalvo
Estudiante de último año en educación bilingüe

“I find it to be a really cool idea of how a person can take a shuttle from both campuses. It really brings us closer together even though we are far away and it is very convenient for the people who don’t have their own transportation. ... I think there is a bus that’s just here around campus, which takes you from one side of the university to the other one. I think that’s also very useful for people, so that they don’t walk or they are in a really big hurry, they have that access. Right now, the bus drivers, they are really friendly, really nice, and I just think it’s an overall very good idea and maybe they can expand it in the future.”
Francisco J. Vasquez
Mechanical engineering junior

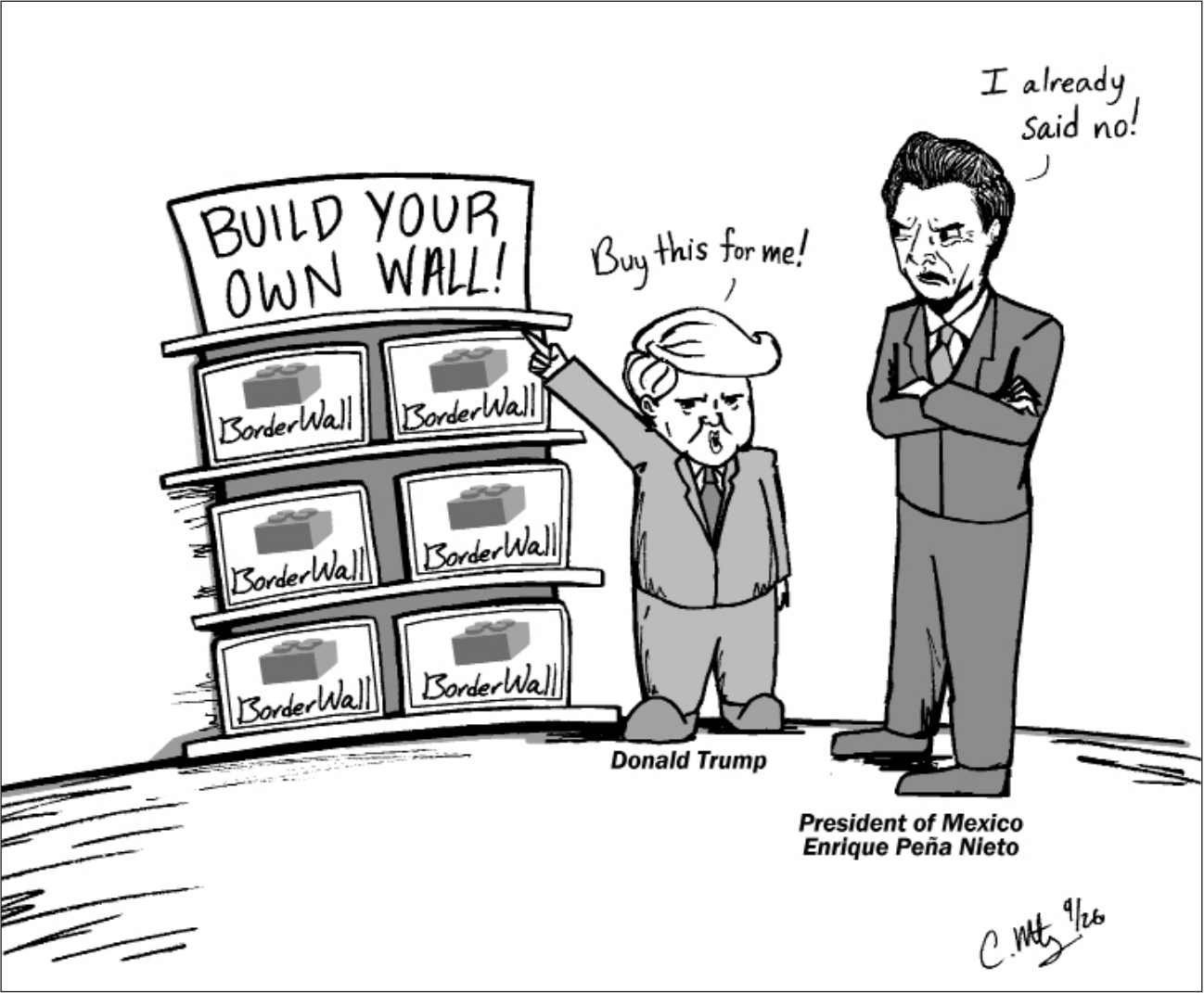


“I’ve only used the shuttles a couple of times, and all in all, I haven’t had any problems. I think it’s really cool that I can get a lift to behind the Rec Center. They just put in those new bikes where you can rent them and that’s really cool. I haven’t tried them out, but I plan to.”
Joshua Harding
Computer science junior

“I don’t use it; I use my vehicle to get to and from home. I’ve never used it and I don’t even know how to use it, to be honest.”
Lorena Fuentes
Biology sophomore

--Compiled by Ana Cahuiche and Gabriel Mata

Visit us online at
utrgvrider.com



GPS trackers in shuttle buses?



Sergio Garcia
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Have you ever wondered where the shuttle bus is, as you wait for it to come? I have. It is hard to calculate how long it will take to get to your location because there are many variables to consider. For instance, its speed depends on the traffic, weather, driver and even on the shuttle itself. Sometimes we consider whether we should wait or just walk. This might be a hard decision, especially if you are just in time and know that the shuttle can take you to your destination faster, but you know that if you don’t start walking you might not make it on foot, so you gamble. You might get lucky, wait for the shuttle, catch it and be early to class or you might not be as fortunate. Wait for the shuttle, don’t catch it and start walking so late that you don’t make it to class on time.

This is not only a problem for students, but also for staff and faculty who might make use of the service. Nonetheless, many students might prefer to walk in order to avoid conflict, but one needs to take into consideration that using this free service might come in handy when the weather is harsh or not optimal for walking. In addition, many students can’t really walk to where they are going, such as when traveling between campuses.

“The university is growing, so making use of technology to make it better and more efficient is crucial for its proper development.”

I believe that installing GPS trackers on all the shuttle buses could solve these issues. By doing so, students would be able to determine, at least with more accuracy, if they can wait for one of the shuttle buses or start walking to their destination. The actual location of the shuttle buses would be available in a third party application or, perhaps, could be a function incorporated into the myUTRGV site. Drivers can disable the GPS trackers when their shift ends to prevent any issues. The university is growing, so making use of technology to make it better and more efficient is crucial for its proper development.

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.

Think before you self-medicate

Monika Garza
THE RIDER

The UTRGV and Positive Community Impact Coalition conducted a town hall meeting on preventing the misuse of prescription and nonprescription drugs on the Brownsville campus.

The meeting featured keynote speaker, Cameron County District Attorney Luis Saenz, and six panelists: Elizabeth Urbina, prevention specialist for Behavioral Health Solutions of South Texas; Ruben Garcia, clinical director of the Mesquite Treatment Center; Jorge Muñoz, UTRGV counselor specialist; Robert Rios, a pharmacist at Walgreens in Brownsville; Jason Bradford, a DEA special agent; and Mark Elbert, a Brownsville Police Department officer.

Saenz said the most dangerous drugs are not the ones on the streets but in our homes.

While illegal drugs and alcohol are still at the top of the list of substances abused by college students, the use of



ANA CAHUICHE/ THE RIDER

Robert Rios, a pharmacist at Walgreens in Brownsville (from left); Jason Bradford, a DEA special agent; Mark Elbert, a Brownsville Police Department officer; Jorge Muñoz, UTRGV counselor specialist; Ruben Garcia, clinical director of the Mesquite Treatment Center; and Elizabeth Urbina, a prevention specialist for Behavioral Health Solutions of South Texas, formed the panel for the first town hall meeting hosted by the Positive Community Impact Coalition. They spoke about the misuse of prescription and nonprescription drugs, parents’ responsibilities regarding health care and the importance of teaching the community about these issues Sept. 19 at Salón Cassia in Brownsville.

prescription drugs is growing not only on college campuses but at a national level.

“We do like 700 to 800 prescriptions a day,” Rios told an audience gathered Sept. 19 in Salón Cassia. “But, where is all that medicine going?”

Urbina said the problem of

abusing prescription drugs is big and that patients have to be careful with them because the drugs doctors prescribe are legal.

Many students believe prescription medicines are safe because they are prescribed by a doctor. However, all

medications have risks when not taken properly.

“Usually, if students don’t have a health condition, they start taking antibiotics or Adderall,” Rios said.

Adderall is used to treat narcolepsy and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

It contains a combination of amphetamines and dextroamphetamines that stimulates the chemicals in the brain and helps to control hyperactivity.

Some students use tranquilizers and sedatives to self-medicate due to anxiety and stress.

Bradford said the only way in which we can break the cycle of drug addiction and substance abuse is by partnering together and informing others about the dangers of prescription drug abuse.

“We can’t ever tell [students] enough about how dangerous drugs are,” Urbina said.

Those with expired prescribed medications may dispose of them at Walgreens pharmacies.

The UTRGV Collegiate Recovery Center Program helps students through the process of recovery from drug and alcohol abuse.

Students who may have a drug or alcohol addiction can call the center at 665-2674 to get the help needed or if students know someone who uses drugs can call 546-8477 to report them.

Alumni: Where are they now?



COURTESY PHOTO

Name: Almendra “Ally” Margin

Age: 33

Hometown: Edinburg

Degree: Bachelor’s degree in fine arts with a concentration in graphic design and a minor in communication advertising

Graduation year: 2005

Current job: Senior creative designer at USAA in San Antonio

How would you describe your college years? “A whirlwind. It went by really, really, quick. I was on a UTPA full scholarship. I was required to take 15 hours and keeping an A average, [then] balancing a college life; it went by quickly.”

What where your favorite things to do while in college? “In the BFA program, I had access to the studios. Just spending time with all the other art students and exploring sculptors, different types of art and stuff was fun. Outside of school, I was working at H-E-B and hanging out with friends, just doing the normal college stuff.”

What motivated you to pursue your degree? “I always wanted to do something that didn’t feel like it was a job when I was actually in the professional world. I always enjoyed art. It was a passion from very early on, so I knew I wanted to do something in that field. I decided to specialize in graphic design because I was aware that I needed to make money. Technology and art was a good strategy and it’s paying off. I’m still doing what I studied, so I’m proud of that.”

Did your degree prepare you for the real world?

“I will be honest, it set a good foundation, but a lot of it, like 85 percent of it, you just have to learn in the real world. You have to have the drive to learn on your own, especially in a field like mine, where everything is advancing so quickly all the time. You have to keep up with the changes in technology, design trends and design principles. I’d say that college is a good foundation, but I learned a lot in the real world.”

What experiences have you had that you would say are out of the ordinary since graduating?

“After graduating, I went to UT Austin and I got my master’s in advertising. After that, at my first agency job, I was sent to France with another co-worker to represent the U.S. in an advertising competition. We were in France for a whole week. We competed against 40 other countries in a short film festival and we came home with second place. So, that whole experience is something that I really treasure because it was a once-in-a-lifetime kind of thing. I don’t think I will ever go back to France.”

Briefly describe what you do in your current job. “It’s difficult to describe to people what I do as a designer, but it’s more than making things pretty. I work in a department that focuses on what we call, The Employee Experience. [This is] anything that has to do with how the employees interact with things within the company. For example, how the internet works for the employee, how well it’s designed, as well as any logos that the company may need; any type of marketing material comes my way, so I wear a lot of hats. At the end of it all, it involves a lot strategies and really understanding ‘the customers,’ which are the employees of where I work, and make their experience pleasant and beautiful.”

What else do you do besides your current job?

“I have a 21-month-old child, so that keeps me on my toes and I’m expecting. I have two businesses. A freelance photography one called Paper, Love, Scissors, and I make accessories for little girls on Etsy. That one is called House of Monroe, [which] is named after my daughter.”

What’s next, careerwise? “I’m a creative designer right now and I really enjoy branding. I am slowly starting to mark my way in that section here in USAA. I want to move over to the brand department here and, hopefully, be able to work on more branding projects for the company.”

What advice do you have for anyone pursuing your degree? “Do not settle for what you are learning in the classroom. Really take to heart when they tell you to find your favorite artist and favorite designers and what’s out there and be influenced by everything, not just design. I absolutely love interior design. I love fashion design. I love anything that touches on creativity. Kind of allowing yourself to be influenced by all this is going to make you a more wholesome designer.”

--Compiled by Sarah Carvajal and Brenda Garza



CLUB SPOTLIGHT



LESLEY ROBLES/ THE RIDER

The Progressive Young Democrats include Leen Star (front row, from left); Mimosa Thomas, president; and Omar Casas, vice president. Back row: Jordan Navarro; Cathy Torres, president; Ismael Melendez, vice president; and Sandra Barba, secretary.

Name: The Progressive Young Democrats at UTRGV
Purpose: To advocate for progressive policies and elect candidates who will enact them.

Presidents: Mimosa Thomas, Cathy Torres and Erin Peña

Vice Presidents: Ismael Melendez and Omar Casas

Secretary “Technical Guru”: Sandra Barba

Treasurer: Aaron Longoria

Historian: Marlon Monayao

Adviser: Rosy Nyima Resendiz

Activities: Registers voters, encourages civic participation, campaigns for Democratic candidates, hosts debate watch parties and local debates, and participates in local progressive activism and protests.

Meetings: 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. Tuesday in the STAC lobby.

Membership requirements: None

For more information, email: mimosa.thomas01@utrgv.edu

--Compiled by Lesley Robles

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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in collaboration with HESTEC

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Edinburg Campus

Friday, Oct. 7, 2016

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10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For more information or if special accommodations are needed, please contact the Career Center at **Edinburg (956-665-2243)** or **Brownsville (956-882-5627)**. Visit us at utrgv.edu/careercenter.

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‘Ratones de campo’, un relato de fé e inspiración

Rebeca Ortiz
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

Emma González se apodera de los oyentes, va metiéndose en nuestro ánimo y al poco tiempo nos sentimos transportados a las zanjas en que sus padres la dejaban guarecida mientras ellos, en pleno campo, se dedicaban a lo suyo, la recolección de productos del campo.

El pasado miércoles, la autora local, Emma González ofreció una lectura de su nuevo libro, “*Field Mice: Memoirs of a Migrant Child*,” en la cual habla de ese período de 10 años en el que vivió migrando por todo el país con su familia.

El evento que fue patrocinado por la revista literaria riverSedge y la Oficina de Participación Estudiantil fue presentado en ambos campus, empezando for Edinburg el pasado martes y posteriormente en Brownsville; presentación durante la cual González compartió las dificultades de la vida del niño migrante y la importancia de la educación como clave para una vida mejor.

“Es una historia muy importante, especialmente entre las familias migrantes asentadas aquí en el Valle donde existe una gran comunidad,” dijo el jefe de redacción de riverSedge, Robert Moreira.

La historia que relata González pareciera ser una de las miles de historias de los hijos de trabajadores agrícolas que tienen como origen común ser trabajadores migrantes, con escasas posibilidades de tener un asentamiento permanente, y ello puede explicar que apenas a los nueve años asistiera por primera vez a una escuela, casi por el temor que le inspiró a su padre el patrón japonés con el que trabajaba, quien le había explicado que no tener a los hijos en la escuela podría conducir al padre a tener problemas con la ley.

“Al introducirme al mundo de la escuela, yo fui buscando un escape por medio de la educación, por medio de leer aventuras de otras vidas, de otros lugares”, dijo González. “Y ese era el escape que tenía. No importara a donde me llevaran, yo llevaba mi mente en otro mundo, en otra localidad y es como sobreviví la mayoría de mi tiempo en esos años”.

Moreira dijo que esperaba que los estudiantes sacaran de la plática “una pizca de lo que es ser un trabajador migrante, de ser miembro de una familia bajo esas duras condiciones y que sepan que la historia es real y que ocurrió en esta área y solo preguntando y hablando de estas cosas es que podremos concientizar, apreciar y honrar a



ANA CAHUICHE/FOTOS RIDER

Emma González, autora de “Field Mice: Memories of a Migrant Child,” lee un fragmento de su libro el pasado miércoles en el campus de Brownsville.. La lectura y la sesión de preguntas y respuestas fueron parte de las actividades de la herencia hispana. El evento fue patrocinado por la revista literaria riverSedge y la Oficina de Participación Estudiantil.

las personas que pasaron por esas dificultades”.

La autora originaria de Edinburg, reconoce que en su propia superación m u c h o tuvieron que ver el consejo y el apoyo de algunos profesores que le insistieron en que no existe el fatalismo y que ella podría romper el círculo en que se había convertido su origen y vida familiar.

“ La a educación, primariamente, fue lo que me sacó de esa vida, de ese modo de pensar en el que mi familia me rodeaba... todo el apoyo que me daban esas maestras, ‘tú puedes ser más que esto’... fue lo que me abrió la puerta del universo, el universo a la vista mía, de todo lo que era posible

para mí y no nada más los zurcos de una milla de largo”, dijo González.

Yaribel Caraveo, la coordinadora del Programa de Liderazgo y Cambio Social, dijo que esperaba “que los estudiantes se hayan beneficiado, especialmente porque es una autora local y fue una niña migrante.”

“ N o solamente se pueden identificar con ella, sino que han atravesado por historias similares”, dijo Caraveo. “Es bueno para ellos saber que nuestra historia está siendo publicada, y a su vez, las personas están conociendo las historias y las dificultades por las que hemos pasado”.

González dijo que una de las cosas

“ Yo tenía que pelear por ese derecho que tenía de estudiar. La única manera en que lo iba a hacer era si yo agarraba carácter ... porque mi familia no me iba a dar una mejor vida, sino que yo tenía que buscarme una vida mejor.”

Emma González
Autora local

que aprendió mientras su familia se iba desmoronando era que en su hogar no iba a haber alguien que le fuera a brindar apoyo o la oportunidad de que siguiera adelante con su educación.

“Yo tenía que pelear por ese derecho que tenía de estudiar” dijo ella. “La única manera en que lo iba a hacer era si yo agarraba carácter ... y ser persistente porque mi familia no me iba a dar una mejor vida, sino que yo tenía que buscarme una vida mejor”, ella dijo.

“*Field Mice: Memoirs of a Migrant Child*,” fue publicado por County Rd. 34 Publishings en el 2015 y cuenta con una versión para niños. Su secuela, “*Path of Pearls*,” será publicada en el 2017.

La autora ha impartido talleres para enseñar a los niños migrantes a leer y escribir y está programada para impartirlos en cinco escuelas de distinto distrito escolar en Hunstville a partir del próximo martes al 1ero de octubre.

Los talleres están destinados para los grados de 9no a 11vo y contarán con una conferencia en español para los padres en las tardes.

De igual manera, González será uno de los oradores principales del 39vo aniversario de la revista literaria riverSedge el próximo 6 de octubre, en el campus de Edinburg, donde publicarán su más reciente edición.

“Estamos muy emocionados de seguir avanzando y permitir que la revista siga representando a la universidad como escaparate de toda la literatura y el gran arte que existe, no sólo en el Valle, si no más allá,” dijo Moreira.

González dijo que siendo una niña pudo adquirir unas perlas falsas que siempre traía consigo y que constituían uno de sus principales juegos. Años de constancia, de trabajo esforzado, de peldaños incontables para ascender en la escala social y cultural le permitieron, 50 años después, tener un collar de perlas verdaderas y cuando, casi por casualidad regresó al lugar en que jugaba siendo una niña con sus perlas falsas, reparó en lo que le parecía un detalle sumamente aleccionador, consistente en que 50 años después, aquella niña, convertida en adulta exitosa, era dueña de perlas verdaderas.



Alrededor de 25 personas asistieron a la presentación en Brownsville el pasado miércoles.

Serbian connection

Small European country making big impact on volleyball team

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of profiles featuring international student athletes at UTRGV.

Nathaniel Mata
THE RIDER

You can fit the small Eastern European country of Serbia roughly within the central part of Texas. It would fit in an area that encompasses Austin, San Antonio and Houston easily.

The Serbian population would have to almost quadruple to match that of the Lone Star state. If you look at the Vaqueros volleyball roster, you'll see a much smaller gap. The team has a trio of students playing on the team born in the country 6,000 miles away.

The number of women from Serbia is partially due to the history of Head Coach Todd Lowery and his eagerness to recruit in that region. He has had at least one Serbian woman on his roster since 2010, starting with Danica Markovic. His formula of international recruiting contributed to successful teams at the University of Texas Brownsville, which finished two seasons as National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) champions.

Lowery said the small country is an area with talent that can make a big impact at the NCAA level.

"For the size of the country, they do produce what I think is a high number of very good athletes," Lowery said. "Just seeing the influence that the Serbians have had in college volleyball in the U.S., you don't have to dig through very many rosters to find a handful of them: UTSA, Texas, Arizona State."

But why is Serbia a force to be reckoned with in the international volleyball scene? What makes the tiny country such a must-scout area for college coaches looking to add Division 1-ready girls to their rosters at universities around the country?

Height is a big factor in the ability to compete at a high level. UTRGV's three Serbians stand tall at 5 feet 9 inches, 6 feet and 6 feet 1 inch. They help contribute to volleyball's average height of 69.4 inches.

Tina Sekulic, a 5-foot-9-inch junior who played under Lowery at UTB, says that volleyball is a part of a girl's life from a young age in her homeland. The success of the national volleyball team, which earned a silver medal during the Summer Olympics, also drives popularity in the country.

"It's a huge deal. Most females are playing volleyball. We can see also in the Olympic Games we were very good, so most girls are trying to be volleyball players," said Sekulic, a native of Uzice, Serbia. "Honestly, I think we even start before middle school. We start when we are 5, 6 years old. Everybody starts practicing and trying to get better. Every time [the National Volleyball team] comes back from a big competition they



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Serbians Dubravka Vukoja (from left), Bojana Mitrovic and Tina Sekulic pose before practice last week. All three come from the small country in Europe after being recruited by Head Coach Todd Lowery.

come and spend some time with the younger girls, so young girls look up to them and learn something from them."

Sekulic said proper equipment is hard to come by, but it's hardly an obstacle for those dedicated.

"Actually, equipment is not that good," she said. "We don't have that many opportunities; we don't have that many shoes, kneepads. Everyone buys on their own. Sometimes you don't have the proper equipment but you play it because you like to

GOING GLOBAL

have desire to be successful."

Mitrovic, who led the Western Athletic Conference in kills per set at 4.29 in her first season in the WAC, said volleyball is often in the spotlight.

"They have [volleyball] on TV all the time. They also play the local games on channels," she said. "They also broadcast all the big competitions that are happening. So, as a child, I was watching sports a lot because my family is very into sports."

For these skilled players there

there's a lot of international kids and we're going through the same issues. It's easier for us because

we can help and give advice." The youngest member of the Serbian trio, Dubravka Vukoja, is grateful to have fellow countrywomen on the team. The sophomore relies on her teammates for help with language and school.

"It feels really good to have somebody from the same country as you are, especially with Bojana because we played together on the same team," Vukoja said. "When I need help, I just ask her. Same with Tina. We really love spending time with each other."

Vukoja, a setter, earned a spot on the WAC all-freshman team last season. She has goals to play professionally in Europe after finishing her college career. It wouldn't be an unrealistic goal since Danica Markovic, a former UTB player under Lowery recently began her professional career.

"Back home, you cannot go to college and play volleyball; those are two separate things," said Vujoka, a 6-footer. "You either play professionally or go to college. I didn't want to choose any of those. I came here, so I'm ready to take my diploma and play professionally after."

These student-athletes come to Edinburg with big goals not only for themselves but also for the team's success.

All three Serbians have contributed to UTRGV's strong start this volleyball season. It's a symbiotic relationship and it's hard to imagine a Todd Lowery team in the future without a strong presence from the foreign country of Serbia.

The Vaqueros will try to knock off WAC front-runners the same way they knocked off three tournament hosts out of four tournaments they competed in.



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER

Dubravka Vukoja sets the ball for a teammate during UTRGV's sweep of Prairie View A&M University last Tuesday. The sophomore is one of three Serbians on the volleyball team.

play."

Junior outside hitter Bojana Mitrovic echoed some thoughts on how Serbians perform well, despite being underdeveloped in athletic facilities.

"We're a very small country that is big when it comes to sport," Mitrovic said. "We have some very big names when it comes to athletics, even though the things that we have, like gyms and all the stuff that athletes are required to have in order to succeed, are not very developed over there. People have a big heart and they push and

is adjustment not only on the volleyball court, but also adjusting to their new country and community.

"It's hard to be away from your family and your friends," said Mitrovic, a 6-foot-1-inch hitter from Novi Sad, Serbia. "You come here and you have nobody. For me the big thing was that I had Tina by my side, so it was kind of easier. It was two of us in a package. Also, Coach, by that time had two more Serbian girls that played [at UTB], so it also helped. I'm pretty sure now on this team it's the same for the girls that are new because



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER

Name: Paul Leese
Sport: Men's soccer
Title: Head Coach
Years Coaching: 24 (three at UTRGV)

Hometown: Liverpool, England
What's your favorite part of coaching soccer? "I like the skill that's involved with soccer. I cannot remember a time where I was not absorbed with soccer. Obviously, playing it as a kid, and now coaching, still allows me to be involved in the sport that I love."

What's your favorite place to eat off campus? "I've got to give a plug for the Centennial Club [Downtown McAllen]. I haven't eaten at many places because I have two little boys, so they keep me attached to home, but the Centennial Club, I went out and it was just a fantastic place."

How was the adjustment going from athlete to coach? "That's been easy for me because I did it so long ago. You know, I came over and played at college when I was younger, too, and it's been easy because I love the sport. I love watching games, analyzing games. I think as a player, I was very analytical, so it was a very natural path for me to go straight into coaching. The transition was very easy. I was even coaching young kids when I was playing, so it's just been a natural extension."

How do you feel coaching this team? "Very good, this year. We didn't have a complete team last year because it was our first year, so we didn't have the time or resources to find a full team. I'm really enjoying the group we have now. I think the players are starting to jell more together and because we've added more players, I think we're now a more complete team, so it's a lot of fun. The players are really committed. They're very serious and that's what I want in the players I recruit and the team. I want guys that are very committed to their soccer, very committed to their education and very committed to the university."

Who is your favorite music artist? "I'm a big fan of the old '70s R&B and Soul, so if I had to pick one, Curtis Mayfield is one I'm a fan of. Isaac Hayes is one I'm a big fan of. The Isley Brothers, I think they can do it all, so they are for me."

Where would you go on your dream vacation? "I don't even consider that, you know, but if I had to choose somewhere, it would have to be to watch a soccer game. It sounds sad, but soccer is just a passion and something that I love doing, so if you ask me dream vacation, it would be to go see Barcelona play in the New Camp stadium. So, to go to Barcelona, Spain, it would be primarily to watch F.C. Barcelona play."

--Compiled by Sarah Carvajal

WALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hours after the meeting, Peña Nieto tweeted in Spanish: “At the beginning of the conversation with Donald Trump, I made clear that Mexico will not pay for the wall.”

The following day, Trump tweeted, “Mexico will pay for the wall!”

Peña Nieto replied in Spanish: “I repeat what I said personally, Mr. Trump: Mexico would never pay for a wall.”

Despite the back-and-forth Twitter war between the Mexican president and the Republican nominee, Trump’s website still states that a wall will be built along the U.S. southern border, and until Mexico decides to pay for it, the consequences will include the impoundment of all remittance payments (wire transfers) derived from illegal wages and fee increases on the following: temporary visas issued to Mexican CEOs and diplomats, border crossing cards, NAFTA worker visas from Mexico and ports of entry to the U.S. from Mexico.

The primary purpose of a border wall would be to prevent Latin American countries from “exporting the crime and poverty in their own country” through illegal immigration, according to a document on Trump’s website, titled “Trump’s Immigration Reform That Will Make America Great Again.”

Border security and immigration

Amid Trump’s call for a border wall, federal statistics show that the number of illegal crossings is down from 2014.

During Fiscal Year 2015, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) apprehended 337,117 illegal immigrants, nationwide, according to the CBP’s website. Most apprehensions occurred in the Rio Grande Valley sector, 147,257. Of those, 48,173 were Mexican nationals.

The 337,117 apprehensions reflect a 30 percent decrease from the 2014 crisis and an 80 percent decrease from its peak in FY 2000.

Asked what caused the crisis, Omar Zamora, CBP public affairs officer, replied: “Several reasons, right. There’s misinformation provided by the smugglers on the south side—kind of like a psyops campaign going on. In addition to that, there’s a capacity issue, right. Once our other partners’, their capacity is full, at that point we are not able to hold or detain family units or children units.”

The 2014 crisis consisted of an increase in the number of unaccompanied children from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador crossing the U.S. Southwest border.

In FY 2000, 1,676,438 illegal immigrants were apprehended.

Asked what the CBP will do to further decrease the flow of illegal immigration in the RGV sector, Zamora replied: “When we see the numbers start to climb up a bit we’re able to flaunt in agents from other sectors that may be a little bit slower—whether it be El Paso sector, whether it be the San Diego sector. So, we’re able to bring manpower in and it’s experienced manpower; they’re not trainees. So, they’re able to hit the ground

running and work the field. ... And then, on top of that we have a messaging campaign in Central America. ... And part of that is just messaging the dangers that are associated with coming here to the United States, whether it be being taken advantage of by the smugglers or robbed or sexually assaulted or in many cases be left behind to die by the smugglers. They can drown as they’re crossing the river. There is several canals they have to cross. So, it’s really important that we message that out to them in their homeland, just to warn them that it’s not worth taking that risk.”

During Fiscal Year 2015, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) conducted 235,413 deportations, according to the FY 2015 ICE Immigration Removals overview. Of the 235,413 deportations, 59 percent, or 139,368, had been previously convicted of a crime.

Between Oct. 1, 2015, and Aug. 20, 2016, a total of 210,583 illegal immigrants were deported.

The report also states that the top 10 countries of origin for deportation were Latin American. Mexicans made up 62 percent of all deportations, while Guatemalans followed with 14 percent.

In an email to *The Rider*, ICE Public Affairs Officer Nina Pruneda wrote that “ICE’s verified numbers show that the average cost for repatriating an individual outside of the United States, from identification through removal, in Fiscal Year 2015 was \$12,213. This includes all costs necessary to identify, apprehend, detain, process through immigration court, and remove an individual from the country. Removal cost on its own averaged \$1,962 in Fiscal Year 2015, depending on the country.”

In Fiscal Year 2015, 531,463 immigrant visas were issued, according to the Report of the Visa Office 2015. Mexican citizens received 82,476 visas, the most any country of origin received. Nationals of the Dominican Republic received 45,065, while the Chinese received 39,251.

It is estimated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that 416,500 individuals overstayed their visas out of the 44,928,381 nonimmigrant admissions in Fiscal Year 2015, according to the Entry/Exit Overstay Report by the DHS.

Canada leads the Suspected In-Country Overstays with 93,035 followed by Mexico at 42,114. Brazil follows with 35,707 individuals overstay in the U.S.

Communities’ opinion

UTRGV Political science Professor Mark Kaswan said in an interview with *The Rider* that although a border wall is “in the realm of possibility,” constructing it would not be ideal.

“Based on what happened here, when they were building this fence, if they attempted to build a wall I think you would see an armed revolt in the Rio Grande Valley—I mean that facetiously,” Kaswan said. “But, people will be very strongly upset, and I would not be surprised to see action taken against the wall to prevent it from being built, including direct action.”

He then said that if the border fence

See WALL, Page 11

GPA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

changes, that’s what changes,” Servantes said. “It is important that if students notice any discrepancies they have to let us know.”

Berrou, who said she should have been informed about this GPA error earlier, asked Martinez on Aug. 18 via email: “Shouldn’t [the] Registrar’s [Office] send a mass email warning students to double check their GPA[?]”

That same day, Martinez replied: “We have been trying to formulate a plan to notify students about possible GPA inaccuracies.”

The Rider contacted Martinez and University Registrar Sofia Montes for an interview regarding the issue but both referred the newspaper to University Marketing and Communications.

On Aug. 20, Patrick Gonzales, associate vice president for University and Marketing and Communications, declined an interview with *The Rider*, but sent an explanation about the university’s transfer policy:

“As a new institution UTRGV implemented its own academic policies, one of which is a GPA (grade-point average) policy. The policy was published in the University Undergraduate Catalog, which is available to all students online. It states that UTRGV uses a native grade-point average, that is, GPA is calculated on the basis of courses taken at UTRGV, including the legacy institutions, and excludes grades transferred. Courses transferred from other institutions can be used to fulfill requirements at UTRGV, though the grades earned in those courses do not contribute to the UTRGV GPA.”

The course catalog is available by clicking the academics tab on the home page, utrgv.edu.

Gonzales also wrote that it is important to apply the policy consistently to all UTRGV students, “whether new, transitioning from UTB, transitioning from UTPA, or transferring from any other institution.”

He encourages students who question the accuracy of or have concerns about their GPA or any other educational record to contact Montes at sofia.montes@utrgv.edu.

This issue was first brought up to *The Rider* by Claudia Gomez, who identified herself as a concerned student, and copied

the newspaper in an email she sent to former UTB President Juliet V. García on Aug.25.

“Since UTRGV academic policy states no transfer grades will be counted in the GPA (which is okay for those new students starting Fall 2015), they used a UTRGV policy that is effective Fall 2015 and applied it to legacy students,” Gomez wrote in the email to García, who now is a senior adviser to UT System Chancellor William McRaven.

Gomez declined an interview and referred *The Rider* to Alondra Galvan, Student Government Association vice president for Brownsville.

Galvan said she took the issue to UTRGV Student Success Vice President Kristin Croyle.

Students who have taken courses at the legacy institutions UTPA, UTB and UTB/TSC will not see a change since UTRGV counts this as “institutional grades.” The only grades that are not being transferred in are those from non-legacy institutions, Croyle said in an interview.

This practice was previously used at UTPA but not at UTB.

Around five students have brought up the incorrect GPA issue to Croyle, she said.

During the first and transition years of UTRGV, the university signed three memorandums of understanding on credit transfers with Texas Southmost College, South Texas College and Texas State Technical College.

These MOUs, however, were not affected by the policy in any way because they were designed to align degree requirements and to make sure the courses students take in the colleges for their associate’s degree can transfer for a bachelor’s at UTRGV, Croyle said.

Of the legacy UTB students who came into UTRGV, about half did not feel any impact since they did not have any transfer work and about one-third of those had a GPA increase, she said.

Croyle made some clarifications about GPA at UTRGV:

--UTRGV does accept courses as long as it fulfills the degree requirement.

--For students who want to increase their GPA, their best option is to retake the course within the university, not at another, since UTRGV will not accept a grade that is brought from outside.

--For courses repeated at UTRGV, the university only accepts the most recent grade, not the highest.

Here we go, ladies!

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UTRGV faculty showcases talent

Megan Gonzalez
THE RIDER

The School of Music is featuring UTRGV musicians for the annual Faculty Showcase Concert from 7:30 to 9 tonight in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex Auditorium in Edinburg.

“This is going to be a chance for [the] music department on both campuses to offer performances of one selection by a wide variety of our faculty,” said Krista Jobson, an assistant professor in the music department.

The concert will feature Associate Professor Mark Ramirez, marimba and drumset; Lecturer Dino Mulic, piano; Associate Professor Jonathan Guist, clarinet; Jobson, flute; Lecturer Hector Rodriguez, guitar; and Associate Professor Kenneth Saxon, piano. They will perform works by Boris Papandopulo, Jörg Widmann, Sonatina, Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco and Sergei Rachmaninoff.

“Dr. Jobson contacted all faculty asking if they would like to participate,” Ramirez said. “I think it would be a great way to bring the community together as a gala.”

Jobson organized the concert to give the community a chance to see the talent among the staff. To give a variety to the audience, different musicians will perform.

“One thing that’s really great about musicians is that we are always wanting to perform,” Jobson said. “We are always looking for opportunities.”

Tickets can be purchased on patron. utrgv.edu for future concerts and events.



NUBIA REYNA/THE RIDER

UTRGV Lecturer and pianist Dino Mulic, a native of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina who has performed in Austria, Canada, Croatia, Hungary and Italy, entertained more than 50 people Sept. 16. at the Texas Southmost College Arts Center as he played “Variation II: Poco allegro” by Ludwig van Beethoven.

WALL
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10
hasn’t been finished, why would the wall be any different.

In 2009, the U.S. Government Accountability Office reported that pedestrian fencing cost an average of \$3.9 million per mile, while vehicle fencing cost \$1 million per mile, according to the Secure Border Initiative Fence Construction Costs report.

“You could do all that, you could do things,” Kaswan said. “You could have armed guards standing shoulder to shoulder 24 hours a day, you could do that. ... The cost would be impossible, and I think, the kinds of things that Trump is talking about would be so expensive—and Mexico would not pay for the wall—that, it’s really absurd. It’s at a level of absurdity.”

Kaswan said that Trump’s tactics to make Mexico pay for the wall would harm the relationship between the U.S. and Mexico and, in some cases, backfire.

“Imposing a fee on [remittance payments] would harm the Mexican economy because it would mean that people in Mexico that depend on the transfers would receive less,” Kaswan said. “So, that would mean greater poverty in Mexico, which would then create more pressure for people to try to immigrate to the United States. So, it

would, in fact, backfire.”

Jerry Polinard, fellow UTRGV political science professor, said that illegal immigration is not a problem, in terms of violent crimes.

“The crime rates committed by [the] undocumented are lower than those from the regular population,” Polinard said. “So, it’s an interesting political debate on both sides. ... But, building a wall does not appear to address the problems that are being articulated by the supporters of the wall.”

A report by Walter Ewing, senior researcher at the American Immigration Council; Daniel E. Martínez, assistant professor of sociology at George Washington University; and Rubén G. Rumbaut, a distinguished professor of sociology from the University of California, Irvine, titled “The Criminalization of Immigration in the United States,” states: “Between 1990 and 2013 ... the number of unauthorized immigrants more than tripled from 3.5 million to 11.2 million. During the same period, FBI data indicate that the violent crime rate declined 48 percent—which included falling rates of aggravated assault, robbery, rape, and murder.”

The rate of violent crimes dropped from 79.8 to 20.1 per 1,000 between 1993 and 2014, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

“Building a wall would help wall builders, but even more it would help people that build ladders,” Polinard said.

Jorge L. Guerra Jr., who attended the Democratic National Convention as an alternate delegate and is the lead volunteer in the Rio Grande Valley for Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, said he doesn’t have a problem with deporting immigrants who have a criminal record, but not the law-abiding immigrants.

“I would be open to Trump’s position [on immigration] if he would say it in a way that wasn’t racist, in a way that doesn’t inflame racial tensions,” Guerra said. “It’s just the way that he says it.”

Joaquin Pistokache, RGV Ambassador for Students for Trump, said the U.S. needs to enforce its immigration laws.

“I feel that there’s been a lack—I guess you can say a lack of focus, there’s been more of an open borders policy and this is coming from all over the world and I feel that the laws need to be enforced because we need to know who comes into our country,” Pistokache said. “There’s nothing racist about knowing who’s coming into our country. ... Same way that you wouldn’t let anyone into your home if you didn’t know who they were. So, that’s where I stand.”

Asked what his thoughts were on Trump visiting Peña Nieto, Pistokache replied: “The president invited both candidates, but

only one of them showed up. So, to me, I see a proactive to getting things done.”

Luis Perez, a psychology senior on the Brownsville campus, said creating a border wall might help secure the campus from illegal immigrants.

“Since I work here I’ve experienced, you know, when they actually cross ... ” Perez said about seeing immigrants crossing the border behind the Texas Southmost College Recreation Center. “I’ve experienced it four times and I just go in and call campus police. So, I’ve had that experience.”

Perez said because of his experience he knows what to do in that situation, whereas other students might not know what to do.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Police Department can be reached at 882-8232 in Brownsville, 665-7151 in Edinburg or 882-7232 in Harlingen.

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