

Student advisory council shares concerns

Tuition, campus safety and UTRGV transition examined

Andrea Torres
THE RIDER



Alberto Adame (left) and Kathryn Brough. More than 20 student representatives met Sept. 11 and 12 for the first UTSSAC meeting of the academic year. They also discussed student concerns for their individual institutions such as the campus carry law, maternity leave and daycare programs for students, transfer scholarships, campus safety and student health insurance rates.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley representatives on the council are Student Government Association President Alberto Adame and Kathryn Brough, a public relations and marketing junior.

The Legislative and Financial Affairs Committee, which Adame chairs, weighed the tuition proposal.

“Students at many, at most, institutions that are academic want those increases because they want to fund additional activities,” Adame said in a telephone interview with *The Rider* last Tuesday. “They want the fees to increase so they can accommodate more students, they can help out more students and they can see their services increase.”

Students in other system schools passed tuition referendums but they were rejected by the board of regents, Adame said.

“Even if the student bodies were behind it and the community was behind it, they were just denying everything,” he said about the board of regents.

During the meeting, student representatives presented issues on their campuses.

Adame and Brough presented problems that the consolidation of UT Pan American and UT Brownsville has brought.

“The transition has been shaky, hasn’t been great for everyone,” Brough said, adding that students reported having problems with services at both campuses. “A lot of students were having trouble with financial aid and the paperwork getting lost. ... Another one was the differences between the campuses, especially in smoking policies. They’ve been having two different policies for years and now we’re going to incorporate that into one.”

Issues presented at the UTSSAC meeting were based on concerns students voiced through social media.

“We used a lot of social media, a lot of the complaints and we also took a look at, naturally, what were the combinations, you know, we are two campuses getting

See UTSSAC, Page 10

New transportation route in the works

But, Friday night shuttle service discontinued



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley students board the Vaquero Express Connector Shuttle last Thursday in the Main Building driveway in Brownsville.

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The university’s Office of Parking and Transportation is working on a new route for the Vaquero Express Connector Shuttle that will run between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

“We’re looking at adding some additional service during the day and it’s just a question of us being able to get additional labor, you know, get some

more drivers on board so we can provide that service,” said Rodney Gomez, director of parking and transportation for the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. “Right now, we’re still looking for part-time drivers but they need their [commercial driver’s license] and passenger endorsement. We’ve been getting résumés but they don’t have those credentials.”

In an interview with *The Rider* last

Thursday, Gomez said the university has posted job openings for part-time drivers.

“We’ve put out the word to Workforce [Solutions] that there are openings,” he said. “Also, with the trucking schools, [Human Resources] has sent them fliers and things like that. We are aware that students do need that midday service, so

See SHUTTLE, Page 8

The third woman

UTRGV professor named engineer of the year

Ena Capucion
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The Great Minds in STEM has recognized UTRGV Professor Karen Lozano as the Engineer of the Year. She is the third woman to receive this award in 27 years.

The nonprofit organization was established in 1989 to focus on STEM educational awareness programs for students beginning from primary education to their career. GMiS, formerly known as the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Corp., honors the best and brightest Hispanic engineers, scientists and technology experts across the nation.

Lozano, a Julia Beecherl Endowed Professor in mechanical engineering, successfully took part in conducting research and innovations to create the university’s first startup company, FibeRio Technology Corp. According to the company’s website, they are a supplier of cost-effective and high-throughput nanofiber production systems powered by Forcespinning technology. Nanofibers are a new class of material being applied to medical inventions, filtration,



PHOTO COURTESY KRISTELA GARZA

Karen Lozano

insulation and energy storage just to name a few.

In 2002, Lozano was a junior faculty

member and received a HENAAC award as the Most Promising Engineer.

“It’s funny because I received the [award] and they didn’t make a mistake back then because now, about 10 years later, I became Engineer of the Year,” the professor said. “I felt some pressure back then because if [HENAAC] thought I can achieve something, now I have to prove that I can.”

The GMiS awards are based on nominations in almost 25 different categories, two of which are hand selected by the HENAAC committee, the Engineer of the Year and the Scientist of the Year. When Lozano found out about her second nomination, she assumed it was for one of the normal categories.

“It was really surprising, I wasn’t expecting Engineer of the Year,” Lozano said. “I was really honored by that recognition. I feel happy.”

While Lozano isn’t too fond of the limelight, she finds it necessary to spread the word about women having the ability to be successful in the STEM fields: science, technology, engineering and math.

See ENGINEER, Page 10



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Racing for victim awareness

UTRGV Brownsville campus hosts second 5K Color Run

Rick R. Ramirez
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

The UT Rio Grande Valley Office of Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention will host its second 5K Color Run of the month at 8 p.m. Wednesday.

The Color Run aims to raise awareness about domestic violence. At the same time, participants will get a closer look at the university's Brownsville campus. The community is welcome to join as participants or volunteers.

The Color Run will start outside the Casa Bella student housing complex, located on FJRM Avenue between East Jackson and Tyler streets. Runners, joggers and walkers will pass volunteers who will gently toss various colors of paint at them.

"The run is about campus safety. We're trying to raise awareness about sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking," said Cynthia Jones, director of the Office of Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention. The office is located on the Edinburg campus, where the first 5K Color Run took place Sept. 8. Jones said she is hopeful the department will have an office in Brownsville soon.

Students and community members may register for the Color Run at 7:30 p.m. the day of the race. Volunteers will hand out souvenirs such as glow sticks and T-shirts while supplies last.



PHOTO COURTESY SARAH TAMEZ/OFFICE OF VICTIM ADVOCACY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

UTRGV students and volunteers participate in the 5K Color Run on the Edinburg campus Sept. 8.

Civic engagement

UTRGV departments conduct voter registration

Andrea Torres
THE RIDER

More than 200 campus community members registered to vote during the UTRGV Office of Student Involvement's Rock the Vote event last Tuesday.

"We wanted to make sure we gave our students, faculty and staff an opportunity to verify that they are registered voters in our county or to sign up to be registered voters since we do have early voting coming up Oct. 19th through the 30th," said Cindy Mata-Vasquez, director of student activities for the Office of Student Involvement.

The department partnered with the UTRGV Political Science Department to host the event on both campuses in observance of National Voter Registration Day, Mata-Vasquez said.

Yanely Jimenez, an office assistant in the Engaged Scholarship Leadership Department, helped students fill out voter registration cards.

"What we're trying to do is register as many students as we can, that way they can be eligible to vote on the next elections that are coming up," Jimenez said.

She said only one out of 10 people in the Rio Grande Valley vote.

"That is a really low turnout and we want that to change by giving information to the students and telling them it is important to go out and vote."

The goal was to register 200 students to vote, Mata-Vasquez said.

"I think we hit our number," she said. "We had Rock the Vote T-shirts, we gave out free pizza. I think it's a good way to entice them to see what we're doing for student involvement, for not only the campus, but for the community."

"I haven't [registered] before," said Christopher Araiza, a mechanical engineering junior. "This is my first time doing it."



RICK R. RAMIREZ/THE RIDER

The UTRGV Office of Student Involvement conducts voter registration during last Tuesday's Rock the Vote event on the Brownsville campus.

Anyone wanting to register to vote may fill out an application at the Office of Student Involvement. Oct. 5 is the deadline to register to vote in the Nov. 3 election.

Student Involvement is located in Student Union 1.28 in Brownsville and University Center 205 in Edinburg.

"We'll take the registration cards and send them to the proper locations and then students can get the voter card in the mail," Mata-Vasquez said.

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Choose happiness

Monica Gudiño
THE RIDER



Coming from someone who suffers from anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, happiness can be a tough thing to achieve. It used to bother me

when people would tell me to choose happiness and life will be easy. I used to think, “How can I just be happy when so many horrible things have happened?”

I really didn’t use to think about being happy. The thought that usually crossed my mind was getting through the day and being strong for my parents. The exhausting thing with mental illness is that you are constantly fighting battles inside your head and most people don’t understand. However, you can be lucky and find people that do and want to help you.

I sought professional help and visited a counselor because my friends could only help so much. After a short time, I started to see a difference in the world and, therefore, in myself. The panic attacks were down almost 70 percent and I began to remember, for the first time in months, what being happy felt like. I didn’t want to let go.

I started doing things for myself. I went back to my old hobbies, like reading, writing, painting, going out with friends and I did not think of anyone else except myself. This might sound selfish but until you are truly happy with who you are, you can’t help anyone else.

So, for a while, I was selfish and looking for the best version of myself. I started to have a “YOLO” (You only live once) mindset. I didn’t care what people thought about me or if they thought about me at all.

The key to happiness is choosing to be happy. It might take a while but I can assure you that it feels so much better than being sad all the time.

Sometimes you can’t control feeling sad but when you do, just think, “I deserve to be happy.”

For me, anxiety will always be there but I can choose if it’s in the back of my mind, almost forgotten, or if it rules my life.

So, my advice to you is to go and do those things you have been putting off. Go talk to that friend you haven’t talked to in a while. Watch that movie that made you laugh. Think of yourself and not of what others think of you.

I’m not saying that you will be 100 percent happy all the time but try to look for at least one good thing that truly makes you happy each day. You are worth it and deserve it.

Most important of all, surround yourself with people that love and care about you and avoid those who don’t.

When you feel down, just think about this quote from the TV show “Doctor Who”: “The way I see it, every life is a pile of good things and bad things. The good things don’t always soften the bad things, but vice versa, the bad things don’t always spoil the good things and make them unimportant.”

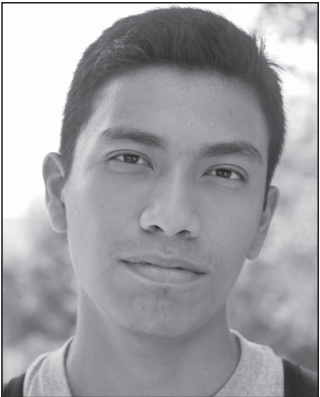
At the UTRGV Edinburg campus ...



Campus Q & A

Do you still have concerns regarding the transition?

--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza and Lesley Robles



William Tovar
Electrical engineering freshman

“Is there going to be any better method of transportation? Because, I have trouble getting from one class from Brownsville to Edinburg and it takes about six hours to get from here to Edinburg and then over there, over here.”



Dora Garza
Management junior

“I do have concerns regarding the transition of the new school. I believe that we have been having too many problems with the change in the classes and with financial aid. I do think that we still have a long way to go before we embrace the total change of the school.”



Arlynn Sanchez
Communication sciences and disorders freshman

“Yes, I do. I haven’t gotten my refund yet from [the Financial Aid Office] and I have to buy books for my two classes, for my psychology class and my university class and I’m still pending on that. So, I hope I get it soon, you know. I’ve been calling and everything. I’ve been going to the [the Financial Aid] department. I’ve been calling them and I still haven’t gotten a word from them. So, I’m hoping it comes soon in the mail or they fix the problem.”



Josue Garcia
Criminal justice junior

“Well, my concern is what is going to happen to the parking lots as the student population is growing. We will need more space for parking lots and bicycle racks.”

Carta al editor:

En favor de artículos en español

En las palabras de nuestro presidente Guy Bailey, UTRGV es una universidad bilingüe. Así que me pregunto: ¿por qué nuestro periódico escolar ha cancelado sus artículos en español? En los semestres anteriores, pudimos leer una o dos páginas en español cada semana. ¿Qué pasó?

No debemos desatender el español, que

es la segunda lengua de los Estados Unidos (42 millones de hispanohablantes) y la segunda lengua del mundo (559 millones de hispanohablantes). El sistema University of Texas nos eligió como líderes en su plan de integrar y apoyar todas las Américas.

Por suerte, UTRGV cuenta con muchos hablantes nativos de español, y el resto

de nosotros merecemos la oportunidad de practicar. El futuro no es monolingüe. Que nuestro periódico vuelva a sus raíces bilingües. Yo les pido a publicar artículos en ambos idiomas del RGV: inglés y español.

Kip Austin Hinton
Profesor

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UTRGVRider

Ready to explore the world

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Nearly 300 students attended the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Study Abroad Fair, hosted by the Office of the Vice President for Student Success last Tuesday in the Main Courtyard in Brownsville.

“Right now, we don’t have the options yet,” said Luis Alcocer-Medina, an international program specialist for the Office of International Programs and Partnerships. “We’re in the process of consolidating and spreading the word. We have invited faculty to propose ideas for trips to take students to study abroad.”

The Office of International Programs and Partnerships set up three information booths for students to learn about what it’s like to study abroad.

“Right now, we are going to have different programs but until next semester we are going to have the specifications and regulations for the new programs,” said Luis Lopez, a communication senior who works closely with the Office of International Programs and Partnerships. “In December, there’s going to be a trip to [Turkey] and [Greece] with Dr. Sharaf Rehman and that class is going to be photojournalism. They’re going to be there for two weeks and then you come back and then you get your full three [hour] credits.”

Tracy Cardenas, a rehabilitation services senior, attended the event and said she would like to study abroad in the near future.

“I’ve been wanting to study abroad for a long time, just that I didn’t have the



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Biology sophomore Reysa Reyes (center) reacts after Luis Alberto Lopez (left), of the International Programs and Partnership Department, cools her off with a fan during the Study Abroad Fair, held last Wednesday in the Main courtyard on the Brownsville campus. Also shown are psychology juniors Brisa Gonzalez and Abraham Abundez.

money for it,” Cardenas said. “So, right now, I’m actually interested in discovering other countries, you know, because I’ve been in the Valley for like a long

time, so I want to travel.”

Cardenas told The Rider she was looking for a program that offers courses in rehabilitation services but could not find

any.

“I was asking [the International Studies Partnership representatives] if there

See ABROAD, Page 10

Back in time

Professor relates African-American history in books

Astrid Gonzalez
THE RIDER

UTRGV Art Professor Lorenzo Pace showcases his family history through his books.

He is well known for his 2001 award-winning children’s book, “Janali and the Lock!” which tells the story of his great-grandfather. The book is based on a family heirloom, a lock that had been used to keep his ancestors in captivity as slaves.

“Jalani and the Lock!” won the Skipping Stones Honor Award after its publication. This led Pace to ask Creative Writing Professor Philip Zwerling if he would collaborate with him in writing a play based on the book.

Pace and Zwerling co-wrote the play, “Locked,” which portrays an African-American family shattered by shame when they discover their relatives were bound by slavery. This inspired Pace to write three other books, “Marching with Martin,” “Harriet Tubman and My Grandmother’s Quilt” and “Frederick Douglass and the North Star,” in which he relates his personal experiences and hardships his great-grandparents faced with monumental figures in the African-American communities. The three books were published as a set in 2014 by Rosen Publishing.

Pace said the entire community was inspired when the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. came to Chicago, where he was living at the time, to protest against segregation. As a young man, Pace was honored to march with King for a cause that was a stepping-stone for many African-Americans on the road to equality.

Coming from a family of 13 in Alabama, Pace witnessed harsh obstacles, especially during winter, that were faced by all

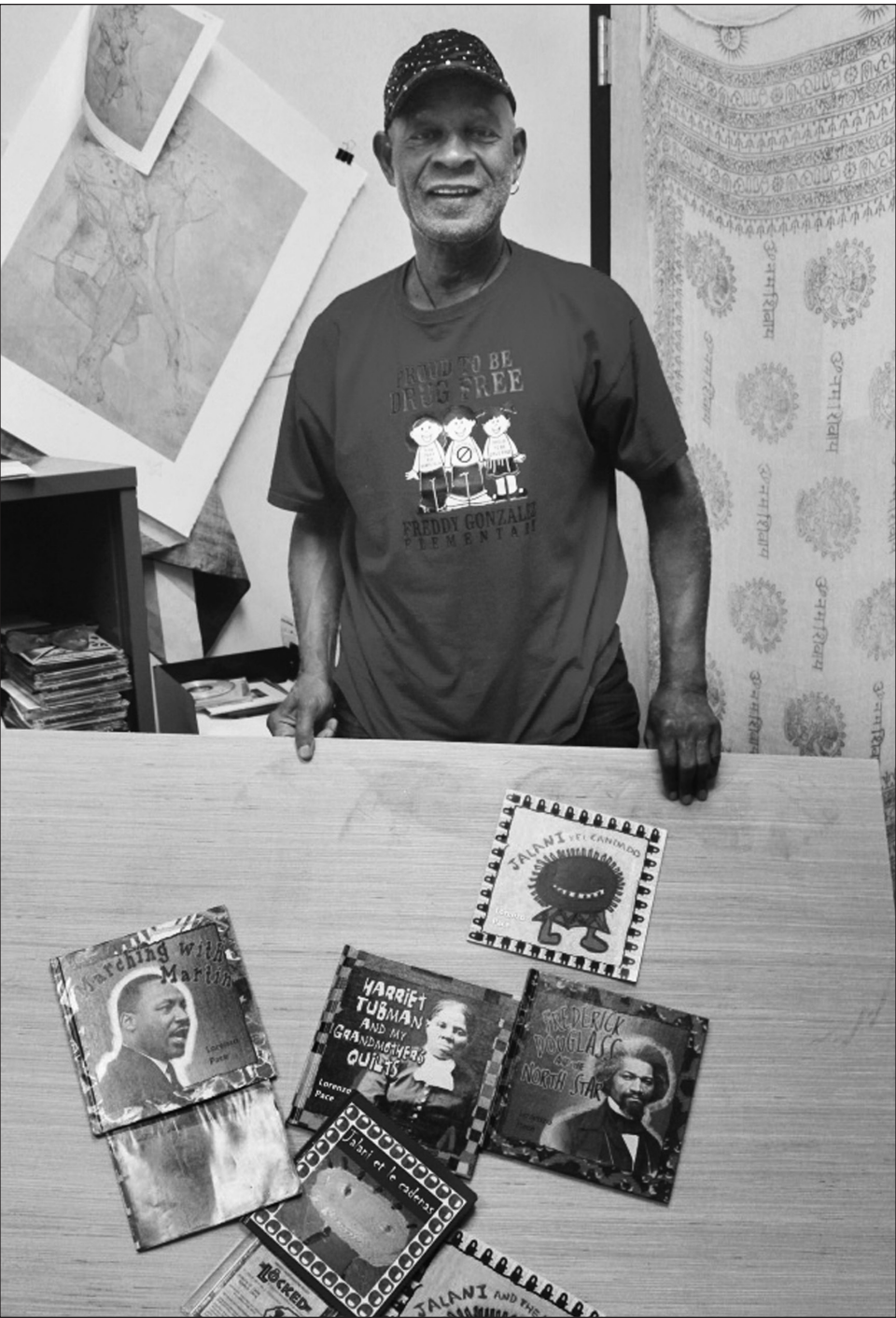
African-Americans during his childhood. His mother and grandmother were the inspiration for “Harriet Tubman and My Grandmother’s Quilt.” He connected the abolitionist and humanitarian Harriet Tubman, his grandmother and his mother’s quilt patterns to the Underground Railroad, illustrating the important role they played in helping slaves find a route North.

“I didn’t know at the time but it was said that the patterns sewn into the quilts during the slavery times were used as guides on the Underground Railroads, so all the patterns you see in the quilts is for a reason,” Pace said.

Pace said he has 25 of the quilts he is considering donating to the new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, which is scheduled to open in Washington, D.C., next year. It will be the 19th museum to open as part of the Smithsonian Institution.

Growing up, Pace said, he would see his school walls and classrooms decorated with photos of Frederick Douglass, an abolitionist and statesman, so that children would honor and respect him for everything he had done to help African-Americans gain their freedom. Those memories were his inspiration for writing “Frederick Douglass and the North Star.”

“Frederick Douglass was the heart and inspiration for African-American communities to educate themselves,” the Alabama native said. “That’s why school is so important for us, and my dad embedded that in our minds, because if Frederick Douglass could do it, any of us could do it also. He was a beacon of light during these difficult times and till this day, we’re still working on moving forward to provide change and acceptance all around.”



ASTRID GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Lorenzo Pace

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Award-winning journalist Soledad O'Brien is bringing the "I am Latino in America" tour to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The national tour of conversations will amplify the Latino voice on critical community issues. The tour is being hosted in conjunction with UTRGV's nationally recognized Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology Week and Distinguished Speaker Series.

The "I Am Latino in America" tour will address voting, the economy and education issues. Influential celebrities, national and local advocates, business leaders, students and academics will join O'Brien along the tour. O'Brien is a former CNN and NBC anchor and the CEO of multimedia production and distribution company Starfish Media Group. She previously hosted two "Black in America" tours that highlighted issues like police brutality and civil rights. She has covered race, ethnicity and compelling social issues her entire career, creating a franchise of Latino in America and Black in America documentaries, books and speaking tours that provoke conversation. She is the author of "Latino in America, a Memoir" (2009) and "The Next Big Story" (2010), the story of how her Black Cuban mother and Australian immigrant father came together to give their children a world of opportunities during the civil rights era.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free flu shots

UTRGV Health Services staff will administer free flu shots to the campus community from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at its clinics, located at 613 N. Sugar Rd. in Edinburg and in Cortez Hall 237 in Brownsville. For more information, call 665-2511 or 882-7643.

Recovery Walkathon

The UTRGV Counseling Center and the Collegiate Recovery Program will sponsor the Recovery Walkathon at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Student Union in Brownsville and at 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m., noon and 12:30 p.m. at the Student Union in Edinburg. Registration is free and will take place at 10 a.m. The first 25 students to register will receive a \$5 gift card. For more information, call Jorge A. Muñoz, counseling specialist, at 882-3896.

Coffee with Cops

Coffee with Cops, an event to learn campus safety tips, ask questions and get to know the officers on campus, will take place from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Tuesday at the

Student Union Commons in Edinburg. The UTRGV Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities will host the event. For more information, call the UTRGV Police Department at 665-7151 or Student Rights and Responsibilities at 665-5375.

Latinos in America

Student Involvement will sponsor a trivia event, titled “Latinos in America: Celebrating our Diversity” to break stereotypes while discovering the diversity of Latinos around the world. The event will take place from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus and from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Oct. 13 in the Student Union’s Gran Salón in Brownsville. For more information, call Student Involvement at 665-2660.

U Central closed Wednesday

The offices of Admissions, Financial Aid and Registrar’s (U Central) will be closed Wednesday, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Brownsville and from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Edinburg. For more information, call U Central at (888) 882-

4026.

Soledad O’Brien: ‘Latinos in America’

CNN journalist Soledad O’Brien will bring her “I am Latino in America” tour to UTRGV from 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 5 in the Performing Arts Center in Edinburg. For more information, call Student Involvement at 665-2660.

‘Writing Chicana History’

Tejana feminist historian Antonia Castañeda will present a lecture titled “Writing Chicana History,” which focuses on her recently published book, “The Three Decades of Engendering History: Selected Works of Antonia I. Castañeda” and the state of Chicana/Latina studies. Castañeda will speak from 1:40 to 2:55 p.m. and from 4:40 to 7:10 p.m. Oct. 6 in Education Complex 3.204 on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call the Mexican American Studies Program at 665-3212.

--Compiled by Mario Gonzalez

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Name: National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA)

Purpose: A pre-professional organization that gives students who are interested in the field of speech-language pathology and audiology the opportunity to be involved with the community and to learn more about their future careers.

President: Ivon Ramirez

Vice President: Kristina De Leon

Secretary: Nicole Rivas

Treasurer: Patricia Mejorado

Co-Treasurer: Valeria Treviño

Historian: Alexandra Rosas

Co-Historian: Glenda Maldonado

Liaison: Arely Ramirez

Senior Representative: Elizabeth Molina

Junior Representative: Karla Nieto

Adviser: Sonia Salinas M.A., CCC-SLP

Activities: Fundraising and volunteering at HESTEC, Special Olympics, Arbor View nursing home, Feast of Sharing, Step Up for Down Syndrome Awareness Walk, Walk for ALS.

Meetings: 12:15 p.m. Thursdays in HSHW 1.406 in Edinburg. Meeting dates are announced via email and on the NSSLHA social media sites.

SHUTTLE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

we are trying, as best as we can, to get the drivers on board because we need additional labor.”

The university has discontinued the Friday night Vaquero Express Connector Shuttle service. The bus would leave Edinburg at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. and Brownsville at 9 and 11:30 p.m.

“We’ve been keeping track of ridership and we haven’t seen any real ridership during that time period,” Gomez said. “I believe in the first two weeks ... we had an average ridership of one person after 5 p.m. in the 7:30 p.m. trip.”

Gomez told *The Rider* bus drivers have been given forms to track the time of departure and how many students, faculty and staff have utilized the shuttle service.

Six more athletic events are scheduled at 7 p.m. Fridays in Edinburg.

Asked how the lack of a Friday night shuttle will affect Brownsville students who want to attend those events, Gomez replied: “If they do have a concern about



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Members of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association include (from left) Ivon Ramirez, Kristina De Leon, Nicole Rivas, Patricia Mejorado, Valeria Treviño, Alexandria Rosas, Glenda Maldonado, Arely Ramirez and Elizabeth Molina.

Membership

requirements:

Completion and submission of NSSLHA membership packet, payment of dues and registration through our V-Link homepage.

using the bus at that time, [students] can contact me so that I can at least have a number attached to them and if we have enough of the demand, then we can reconsider restarting that service.”

Students who want to attend weekend athletic or other university events are encouraged to call the Office of Parking and Transportation at 665-2224.

“I think that’s too bad for the Brownsville students that want to continue to enjoy college athletics,” John Cook, Communication Department chair and associate professor, said last Thursday. “Maybe, as we move forward, we can examine [the events] and schedule special shuttles on sports nights.”

Marie Erwin, a marine biology junior, said the discontinuation of the shuttle services after 5 p.m. Fridays would not have much of an effect and that having a midday service throughout the week would be beneficial.

“I think it’s OK because there’s not a lot of people signed up for classes after 5 p.m. [on Friday],” Erwin said. “Tutoring services are a lot better [in Edinburg], so if I can get an earlier bus at 9 a.m., that

would help me a lot.”

Erwin said she has to wait several hours for her classes to start once she gets to the Edinburg campus at 9 a.m.

Cook told *The Rider* he would support a midday service for students, faculty and staff.

“If they have the resources, I’d be supportive of more runs because it’d be helpful to all of us,” he said. “I usually get on the 7:30 a.m. [shuttle] because of my schedule. ... I think it would serve the students if there were more. I’m very happy that they do it.”

Because the Vaquero Express Connector Shuttles offer Wi-Fi, Cook said he can work on his assignments while making the trip between campuses.

For timely updates on transportation services, visit the utrgv.edu/en-us/student-experience/parking/index.htm website.

Visit us at
utrgvrider.com

New beginnings

First-year head coaches take over tennis program



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Ethan Ammond (left), sophomore tennis player, returns a ball during practice last Thursday at Orville Cox Tennis Center. Also shown is Head Coach Brett Bernstein.

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

New colors and uniforms are not the only noticeable change for UTRGV tennis. Both teams also enter the 2015-16 season with new head coaches.

Stephanie Wooten-Quijada, women's head coach, and Brett Bernstein, men's head coach, were hired within a month of each other. Wooten-Quijada's hiring came on Aug. 13, followed by Bernstein's on Sept. 3.

The fall season is underway for both squads as they all adjust to the changes.

WOMEN

Athletics Director Chris King announced Wooten-Quijada's hiring in mid-August.

"Most importantly [Wooten-Quijada] showed great enthusiasm and excitement for becoming head coach of the UTRGV women's program," King said in the August news release. "Her energy and passion for college tennis was evident from the start of the search process."

Wooten-Quijada nearly echoed the statement at practice last week when asked about her reaction to getting hired.

"When I got the interview for this job, I was really excited about the opportunity, I really wanted that job," said Wooten-Quijada, the four-year Purdue player who finished sixth in the school's all-time doubles wins rankings. "That excitement never went away. I think the girls feel the same way about the opportunity to be a part of something, in being the first UTRGV team."

Natasha Minc, a sophomore player from France, said the transition has been welcomed.

"It's only my second semester here but

I feel old," said Minc, the international student-athlete added to the team in December 2014. "I think that the communication with the coach is good, we can talk to her easily. I'm excited for the upcoming season."

The team has competed in only one tournament so far, the Marco & Co. Catering Islander in Corpus Christi. Dominique Ibarra won her first round match against UTSA's Alena Schichkova 6-2, 6-2.

In doubles, Ibarra and Dominique Esparza defeated UTSA's Caitlyn Resendiz and UT Arlington's Carla Cerdan 8-0.

Wooten-Quijada explained the fall season is prime for individual growth of her players.

"To me, the fall season is for individual

work and the spring is when the team results begin to weigh more heavily," the Crandall, Texas, native said. "Right now we are identifying leaders and everyone is trying to help each other develop their game."

The women will next have their chance to develop that game during Texas State Play Day on Oct. 17 in San Marcos.

MEN

Men's Head Coach Bernstein was a player for UT Pan American men's tennis team from 2006-10; from 2007 until his graduation, he also served as team captain. Bernstein and his brother Beau competed as a doubles pair that went 15-6 in Bernstein's senior season.

He said coming back to his alma mater was always something he considered.

"When I was at [Brigham Young University] and [University of North Carolina]-Greensboro I was asked, 'If your alumni school asked you to come back, would you?' And my answer was always, 'Absolutely,'" the former 4.0 student-athlete said. "I knew I just had to put in the work as an assistant first."

The new head coach comes from a year at BYU and two at UNC-Greensboro but a return to the Lone Star State is something he's ready for.

"I was in Europe, with BYU, when I got the call and job offer," Bernstein said. "I was extremely excited for the opportunity. I had been away for a while but I'm a Texas guy. I love my Whataburger and H-E-B and I'm really excited to help lead this program. I want to be the consistent coach that I never had when I was a player."

Elliot Johnstone, a sophomore on the team, spoke on the quick transition from losing a coach late in the summer to the new leadership Bernstein brings.

"Yeah, for a little bit, we had to get out there alone and motivate ourselves before [Bernstein] was officially hired," the Australian second-year player said. "But it's good to have someone who has been through the program before. You can tell he wants it bad, for this team to be strong."

The 6-foot-1-inch player mentioned mentoring newcomers as part of his duties, despite only being a sophomore.

See TENNIS, Page 10



Freshman, Andres Hernandez, prepares to strike a forehand during practice last Thursday at Orville Cox Tennis Center. Hernandez is one of four newcomers on the men's tennis team.

Athlete of the Week



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Name: Juan Cruz Soria

Classification: Sophomore

Major: Finance

Sport: Tennis

Hometown: San Juan, Argentina

Who is your favorite athlete? "Lionel Messi." Messi is a forward for *Fútbol Club Barcelona*.

Who is your role model? "David Ferrer." Ferrer is a Spanish professional tennis player.

What is the best advice you've ever been given and by whom? "My previous coach would tell me that talent is not enough, that we need to work hard to be successful."

What do you like to do for fun? "I like to play tennis, hanging out with my girlfriend and spend time with my teammates."

When did you begin playing tennis and why did you start playing? "I started when I was 3 years old and I started because my dad and my big brother played tennis, so I wanted to do the same as them."

Did you play in high school and did you get any awards? "I didn't play with my high school, but I played for my club in high school. A lot of junior competition in Argentina and South America."

What are your goals for the season? "Individually, improve and get better on my game. With my team, of course, it's going to be to win the conference and that's my main goal."

What is your favorite movie? "Gladiator."

Is there a song that gets your head in the game? "I like Nirvana and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Sometimes, when I'm nervous, I think of some other songs, but not a specific one."

What are your plans for the Fall 2015 semester? "With tennis, it's to get better. Maybe go to the All-American in Tulsa and regionals."

How do you feel about being part of the first UTRGV Men's Tennis Team? "I'm pretty excited because we're the first tennis team and I want to represent UTRGV the best way I can."

--Compiled by Jacqueline Arias

Have a story idea?

Call us at 882-5143
or 665-2541



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Art freshman Jocelyn Torres (left) looks at brochures on the study abroad program. Also shown is Luis Alberto Lopez, of the International Programs and Partnership Department.

ABROAD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was something related to it,” she said. “I’m still searching. ... I just signed up so I’ll see what they can offer me.”

Alcocer-Medina said students were interested in studying abroad and learning different cultures.

“They’re more interested, first, in experiencing other cultures and go and get credit for that,” he said. “The countries that are enhancing the interests of going away are Spain, Ireland and I also have a

lot of requests for France and South Korea.”

During his undergraduate studies in Mexico, Alcocer-Medina traveled to Florida for one semester but decided to stay for a whole year.

“Studying abroad is one of the most amazing experiences I have done and I want everybody to experience it,” he said. “It’s seems a little costly at times but it’s more like an investment and it’s going to change your life forever.”

TENNIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“We’ve helped them with everything, from getting to classes ... to tennis,” he said. “It’s a good way to mesh with the new players early.”

The men’s team has competed in two events so far this season, highlighted by a complete sweep of Our Lady of the Lake University in singles and doubles play Sept. 19 during the St. Mary’s Quad.

In their first competition of the season on Sept. 11 and 12, the doubles team of Juan Cruz Soria and Koby Jansen reached the main draw final of the Marco & Co. Catering Islander Open. Their 8-7 loss came at the hands of the University of the Incarnate Word.

The men’s packed fall schedule continues this weekend in Tulsa, Okla., for the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Men’s All-American Championship.

UTSSAC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

together,” Adame said.

Criminal justice corrections senior Isabel Moreno, said one of her fears during the transition was having her classes dropped.

“That was one of my main concerns,” Moreno said. “I was thinking, ‘Oh my

gosh, what if that happens to me?’ I was asking about it and it has happened to the students that their classes get canceled the last minute or they have a different professor.”

Students with concerns about UTRGV may email Adame at sgapresident@utrgv.edu or Brough at kathryn.brough01@utrgv.edu. The next UTSSAC meeting will take place Nov. 14 in Austin.

huge accomplishment,” the mechanical engineering professor said. “I think all of those individual accomplishments by my students are what is giving me these rewards. I was chosen to go on stage to acknowledge and thank people but it’s a lot of the students that contributed to have the [committee] choose me.”

Lozano and 24 other winners will be recognized next month at the 27th annual HENAAC, scheduled Oct. 14-18 in Pasadena, Calif.

Visit us at
utrgvrider.com

Safety first



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Staff members of the UTRGV Student Rights and Responsibilities Department inform students about the Superhero project during last Wednesday’s Study Abroad Fair. The Superhero program is an active bystander initiative designed to empower students to help other students. About 500 students signed up to learn more about the program, said Douglas Stoves, associate dean for student rights and responsibilities.



Rebeca Rodriguez, a bystander peer educator, hands out brochures and sunglasses to help promote the Superhero program.

When two become one

Traditions partner up for a community event

Ena Capucion

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The Sunset Live Outdoor Concert Series and PalmFest 2015 are partnering to bring a variety of entertainment this weekend at the McAllen Convention Center Oval Park.

The 10th annual PalmFest International Folklife Celebration will feature historical displays, shopping, art, family games, rides as well as kids activities, cooking demonstrations, live entertainment, classic car show and diverse refreshments. The tradition began in October 2004 after the McAllen Centennial Celebration commemorated the city's founding in 1904. After the event's success with more than 7,000 attendees, the Centennial Committee--a group composed of members from the Oldtimer's Club, Future McAllen and Leadership McAllen--promoted the idea of a citywide festival promoting unique cultures and a vibrant history.

PalmFest International Folklife Celebration made its debut in October 2006 at the McAllen Civic Center and transferred to the McAllen Convention Center in 2007 to make room for the 40,000 attendees.

As for the Sunset Live Outdoor Concert Series, the event is held every second Saturday of the month promoting local artists and musicians for exposure. Sunset Live is known to have from 1,500 to 4,000 attendees a month.

UTRGV rehabilitation services junior Andrea Treviño is looking forward to the event because there's a strong sense of community.

"I have been to both [events] and



ENA CAPUCION/THE RIDER

The McAllen Convention Center is located at 700 Convention Center Blvd. and will host this weekend's Sunset Live Outdoor Series as well as the 10th annual PalmFest International Folklife Celebration.

enjoyed both, but I love Sunset Live because it's so laid back and pet friendly," the junior said. "I like to take my dogs everywhere with me. I really like the bubbles that they have while the local band plays and the kiddos run around dancing. It's a really refreshing thing to see ... the whole community with their

families, kids and furbabies, all together."

Scheduled from noon to 10 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, the event will include six live entertainment stages, four of which will be indoors, that will feature local performers and dance groups of several genres such as Indian, folkloric and Middle Eastern.

PalmFest will also have a variety of vendors to shop from, such as *El Mercado* Arts & Crafts and *Hecho en Mexico*, a shopping area with more than 50 Mexican vendors selling their handcrafted work.

‘MAS PALABRAS’ POETRY SLAM THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

Monica Gudiño

THE RIDER

Albuquerque's poet laureate and a UTRGV student featured on the "Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry" show will perform Thursday and Friday on both campuses of the university.

Amalia Ortiz, who is pursuing a master's in creative writing, will open for Jessica Helen Lopez, the poet laureate of the City of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The show is titled "Más Palabras: Slam Poetry by the City Poet Laureate of Burque."

Ortiz recently published "Rant. Chant. Chisme." (Wings Press, 2015) a collection of her work.

"I'd like students to feel a sense of pride in their Latino heritage ...," Ortiz said in a

telephone interview last Thursday. "I hope that in hearing our stories they feel inspired to write and share stories of their own."

The graduate student was featured on three seasons of "Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry" on HBO and the NAACP Image Awards on FOX.

"They have important messages to relate about issues important to our border communities and the world," said Emmy Pérez, an associate professor in the UTRGV English Department. "To see them together, I think it will show students what is possible



Jessica Helen Lopez



Amalia Ortiz

in performance."

Lopez has been featured as one of 30 Poets in their 30s by Muzzle, an online literary magazine. She is a nationally recognized award-winning slam poet and is the 2012 and 2014 Women of the World City of ABQ Champion.

Both artists describe themselves as Chicana feminist poets.

"They will really make a great impact on the audience," Perez said. "They write about a lot of similar themes and they have completely different representations, performance styles, so I think they will

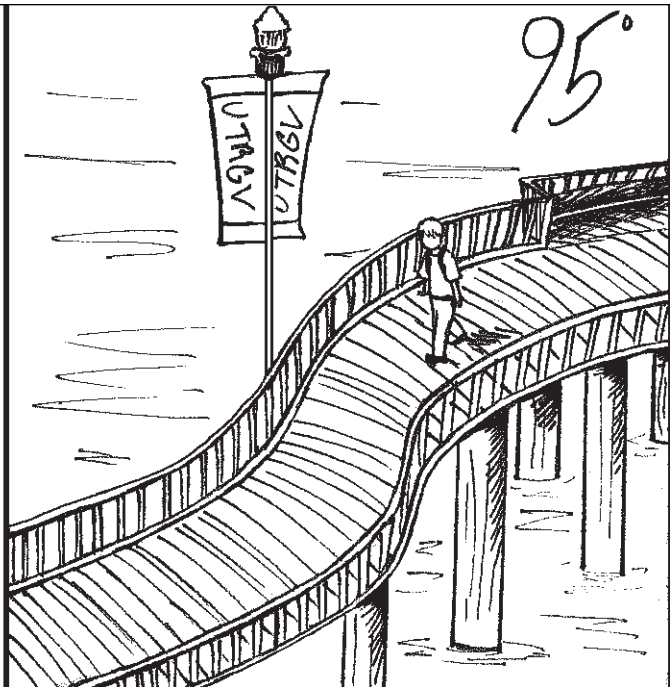
complement each other."

Lopez graduated with a bachelor's degree in creative writing with an emphasis in poetry from the University of New Mexico, where she is an adjunct professor.

Her advice for future poets is, "First, is to write for yourself and then to share it with others. By doing that you are allowing other people to hear your experiences. They can relate to it."

Lopez and Ortiz will perform at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Student Union theater in Edinburg and at noon Friday in the Student Union's Gran Salón in Brownsville. Admission is free. The event is part of UTRGV's observance of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Currently, there is no place to purchase food at the Student Union on the UTRGV Brownsville Campus.



CMS 9/28

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Careers



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Jobs



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in collaboration with HESTEC

Brownsville Campus
Wednesday, October 7, 2015
10 A.M. – 2 P.M.
Location: El Gran Salon
(Student Union)

Edinburg Campus
Friday, October 9, 2015
10 A.M. – 3 P.M.
Location: Fieldhouse
(HPE I)

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For more information or if special accommodations are needed,
please contact the Career Center at (956) 665-2243 or (956) 882-5627.



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