

THE RIDER

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HESTEC WEEK

Young minds shine on Robotics Day

Nubia Reyna

THE RIDER

More than 350 students from 62 middle and high schools of the Rio Grande Valley participated last Thursday in "Robotics Day," which was part of the Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology Week (HESTEC), in the Jacob Brown Auditorium.

STEM Programs Director Javier Garcia said he was excited that Robotics Day took place in Brownsville.

"Diversity is very important,"

HESTEC WEEK,
Pages 6-7

Garcia said. "We do have good, talented Latinos that are in engineering and science, but we don't have enough."

Garcia hopes that events like this one inspire Hispanic students to become engineers.

Students competed in groups in such categories as team spirit, Lego grand prix, Lego pull challenge using Lego Mindstorms programmable robots.

See **ROBOTICS**, Page 7



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Students plan strategy to compete with a Lego Mindstorms programmable robot to carry a soda can over a black-tape track.

Searching for the Vaquero Mascot to be revealed in 2017

Bryan Ramos

THE RIDER

Every university needs a mascot to identify with. UTRGV, now in its second year, is still working to build the perfect mascot that accurately represents the university, the student body and the Rio Grande Valley as a whole.

The Mascot Committee at UTRGV is made up of representatives from the Student Government Association, alumni, the Campus Programming Board, a student-athlete, two students, one faculty member and staff from Athletics, Admissions, Student Life and the Spirit Program.

They have spent more than a year creating and designing the Vaquero, the mascot recommended by UTRGV President Guy Bailey.

Student Activities Director Cindy Mata-Vasquez, who oversees the mascot committee, said it's important for sports to have a mascot that is available and present.

"We're taking our time to make sure we do it right. We don't want the students to have

See **MASCOT**, Page 5

No RiSA this semester

Monika Garza

THE RIDER

The Rio Grande Science and Arts Festival (RiSA), which in previous years has been held in early November, has been delayed because it is similar to HESTEC, university officials say.

"Because of HESTEC and the similarities between the two events, [the College of Sciences and Division of Governmental and Communication Relations] have delayed RiSA and we hope to keep RiSA in some form or fashion in the future," said Patrick Gonzales, associate vice president for University Marketing and Communications. "But, at the same time, it hasn't officially been canceled."

The Rio Grande Science and Arts Festival (RiSA) celebrated science, engineering, technology and mathematics through a variety of art forms in the Rio Grande Valley. The festival engaged young people in the excitement, fun and awe of science and art to inspire them to continue their education.

"We are having discussions on how we can keep RiSA in some form or fashion. That means a separate event, that means incorporating with [Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology Week] or having some type of spring event," Gonzales said. "All those discussions are being held



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

A student is about to smash a cinder block on a person lying on a bed of nails, without causing harm, as part of the 2014 Rio Grande Science and Arts (RiSA) Festival physics circus.

currently and we will make a decision on that."

UTRGV physics Professor Joseph Romano said he suspects the RiSA festival will be canceled this year as no one is in charge of coordinating it anymore.

"I suspect that without somebody in charge of [RiSA], it probably won't happen," Romano told *The Rider* in an interview last week.

RiSA was held the last two years on the Brownsville campus under the direction of Joey Shapiro Key, who was the director of Education and Outreach at the UTRGV Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy on the Brownsville campus.

Romano said Key took a faculty position at a university in Washington.

"Unless somebody steps up

and says, 'I want to lead this,' it won't happen," Romano said. "Given that she is gone, the program has effectively died."

Gonzales said there is no official person right now who is in charge of RiSA.

Key said she hopes the team in charge of HESTEC will continue the work that RiSA has done.

"I do still hope that [the HESTEC team] will continue

See **RiSA**, Page 6



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Does my vote count?

Oscar Castillo
NEWS EDITOR

Following the second presidential debate on Sunday, dozens of Vaqueros have made their way to voter registration sites so they can cast their vote in the Nov. 8 election, but will it matter?

In a random online survey conducted by *The Rider*, more than half the respondents said they did not think their vote will directly influence the outcome of the presidential election.

This misconception might be tied to the Electoral College.

When citizens cast their vote, they are not voting for the next U.S. president, they are simply telling their state who it should give its electoral votes to.

The Electoral College was formed in 1787, when the executive branch was established.

UTRGV political science Professor Jerry Polinard said the Founding Fathers almost immediately rejected the idea of a popular vote as a form to elect a U.S. president.

“At one point they seemed to be deciding that Congress would choose the next president, and then they decided to back away from that because that would violate separation of powers too much,” Polinard said. “And then, they came up with this very weird concept called the Electoral College. The Electoral College, from a constitutional standpoint, this is how the president is chosen.”

Fellow political science Professor Mark Kaswan said although the system is

confusing, every vote counts.

“Ultimately, the voters do determine the outcome of the presidential election because the point of who wins which state depends on the voters in that state, so every vote counts,” Kaswan said.

When the U.S. elects a president, it is done on a state-by-state basis, Kaswan said.

Candidates either win or lose each individual state based on the plurality of the votes, not the majority.

A majority happens when more than half of the votes are for one candidate. Since most elections have more than two candidates, it would be difficult for a sole candidate to receive a majority.

“The number of electoral votes that any one state has is determined by the number of seats they have in Congress, which is the number of members they have in the House of Representatives, plus two for the number of members they have in the Senate,” Kaswan said.

The Electoral College is made up of 538 electors; the next U.S. president must obtain 270. The electors, who are party loyalists, vote in their respective states on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December, according to the National Archives and Records Administration site. Vice President Joe Biden will preside over the count and announce

Countdown to Election Day

Third in a series



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Computer science junior Matthew Rodriguez registers during a voter registration drive sponsored by the Texas Freedom Network last Tuesday at the Student Union in Brownsville. Assisting in the drive were English freshman Macarena Martinez (left) and nursing sophomore Kimberly Cerbin.

the winner.

Kaswan said the Electoral College is an imperfect system because the larger the population of the state, the larger the penalty; the smaller the state, the larger the bonus.

Voter registration drive last Tuesday, said this system is not ideal.

“My main conflict with the Electoral College is that, depending on the state, sometimes you have more voting power or you have less voting power,” Aguilar said. “Some people say it’s a good thing because it gives smaller states more power, but it’s not really fair for us.”

As of July 2015, Texas had the

second most electoral votes, 38, with a population of more than 27 million, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. California came in first with 55 electoral votes and a population of more than 39 million.

Of the 27 million residents in Texas, 14,238,436 are registered to vote, according to the Secretary of State website. Whoever wins the plurality in Texas, whether it be Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton or Republican Donald Trump, will receive the 38 votes.

See **POLITICS**, Page 5

The last day to register is Tuesday.

Maximiliano Aguilar, an engineering sophomore who participated in the Vaqueros

Zika virus: three travel-related cases in the RGV



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Biology Associate Professor Christopher Vitek extracts mosquito pupae from a dish in the research wing at the Science Building in Edinburg.

Monika Garza

THE RIDER

Within two months, three cases of travel-related Zika virus have been reported in Cameron County.

In February, the World Health Organization declared Zika a public health international emergency.

People have contracted the virus through the bite of an infected mosquito and, in some cases, sexual transmission.

Last Tuesday, the Cameron County Health Department confirmed another travel-related case of the Zika virus.

A 52-year-old woman in Los Fresnos tested positive after traveling to Veracruz, Mexico, in July.

The woman was tested twice. The first test was negative and for the second test, it took about two months for the Texas Department of State Health Services to confirm the woman had a travel-related Zika case.

Marco Lozano, director of Health Emergency Response at the Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services, said that

due to the expansion of case definition the department launched this month, more cases are being classified.

“The criteria for testing have expanded, allowing us to test more individuals that may have been exposed or infected with the Zika virus disease,” Lozano said. “The more people we test, the more people we’ll find that have contracted the virus.”

On Sept. 21, a 26-year-old pregnant woman from San Benito tested positive for the Zika virus after traveling in Tamaulipas, Mexico, making it the first confirmed travel-related case in Cameron County.

In an interview with *The Rider*, John Thomas, a UTRGV biology assistant professor, said the first case was imported.

“That means that the lady acquired Zika outside of the local area and then brought it back here with her

when she returned,” Thomas said. “She had traveled to Tamaulipas state a few weeks ago and that is where [health professionals] think she picked it up.”

UTRGV Associate Professor Christopher Vitek said that he is not surprised about the travel-related case reported in San Benito.

“I am not surprised. It’s one of those things where [researchers and health professionals] suspected that there will be cases here,” Vitek said. “It is probably just a matter of time until we have local cases here in South Texas.”

Vitek and Thomas work together at UTRGV and for the

state to research approaches to prevent the spread of the Zika virus in the Valley.

“We are trying to identify what mosquito vectors are found in what kind of areas,” Vitek said. “My research primarily focuses on mosquitoes and what influences their behavior, what influences their development, where are they found and what influences their ability to transmit diseases.”

Part of Thomas’ research focuses on what happens once a newborn becomes infected with Zika and the kinds of changes that happen in the architecture of the brain.

“I am doing a lot of my work with animals by infecting pregnant [mice] and then studying the brains of the newborns that they develop,” Thomas said.

In 2015, a 57-year-old woman from Brownsville traveled to Chiapas, Mexico, over the Christmas holidays and contracted the virus, making it the first possible travel-related case in the Rio Grande Valley.

“This case was first diagnosed as a flavivirus unspecified,” Lozano said. “On Sept.1, there was a reclassification of definition from the Texas Department of State Health Services. Based on the reclassification,

See **ZIKA**, Page 5

“I am not surprised. ... It is probably just a matter of time until we have local cases here in South Texas.”

Christopher Vitek
UTRGV Associate Professor
Biology Department

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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NEWS EDITOR

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PHOTOGRAPHERS

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Lesley Robles

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Carina Alcantara

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Anita Reyes

Ana Sanchez

CONTACT:

EDINBURG CAMPUS

1201 West University Dr.

ELABS 170

Phone: (956) 665-2541

Fax: (956) 665-7122

BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS

1 West University Blvd.

Student Union 1.16

Phone: (956) 882-5143

Fax: (956) 882-5176

Email: TheRider@utrgv.edu

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

‘In Our Shoes’ panel

Students will share their experiences with disabilities during the “**In Our Shoes**” panel presentation, scheduled from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus. Afterward, a special poster will be presented by **Rehabilitation Services** students. The event is part of UTRGV’s observance of **Accessibility Awareness Month**. Refreshments will be provided. For more information or special accommodations, call **Steve Wilder**, assistant director of **Student Accessibility Services**, at 882-7372 or email him at steve.wilder@utrgv.edu.

TUESDAY

Voter Engagement Fair

The **Texas Freedom Network** will host an event to encourage students to register and make a pledge to vote from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the South Quad area on the Edinburg campus. There will be music, games and other activities. For more information, call 320-7754.

United Union LGBTQ+

The **Student Union** will host a cultural, informational and social event to help provide outreach, advocacy and resources for the **LGBTQ+ community** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Student Union Commons in Edinburg. For more information, call 665-7989.

WEDNESDAY

Hearing aid fundraiser

The **Deaf Education and Advocacy Foundation** will sell T-shirts and other items to raise funds for hearing aids from 12 to 1:30 p.m. at Library CTY A in Edinburg. The sale will continue at the same time Thursday at Library Lawn. For more information, call 320-7754.

THURSDAY

Treble Thrivers performance

The **Treble Thrivers** will perform from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. at the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 457-2494.

Mid-Autumn Festival

The **Chinese Language and Culture Association** will host its **Mid-Autumn Festival** from 3:30 to 8 p.m. at the University Center Ballroom in Edinburg. The group will celebrate the eighth lunar month with music and food. For more information, call 882-5111.

Texas Hold’em Tournament

The **Student Union** will host a **Texas Hold’em Tournament** from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Student Union Game Room on the Edinburg campus. Registration is free. The winner will receive 25 Vaquero Bucks. For more information, call 665-7989.

FRIDAY

Friday Night Chess

The **Chess Club** will host **Friday Night Chess**, where attendees can learn to play and participate in quick games and

tournaments from 4 to 9 p.m. in Sabal Hall 2.106 on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call (832) 908-5462.

SATURDAY

SSB Melee Tournament

The **eSport Association** will host a tournament from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus. The tournament and venue fee is \$10. A standard Smash prize will be awarded. For game rules, visit ceogmaing.org/melee. For more information, call 639-5913.

SUNDAY

Purrpaws

The **UTRGV Environmental Studies Minor Program** will host a pet food, product, cleaning supplies and cash donation drive for the **Laguna Madre Humane Society** from 1 to 4 p.m. Donations can be dropped off during **Cyclobia** at 1034 E. Levee St. in Downtown Brownsville. For more information, email purrpaws1@yahoo.com.

Food Sales

Pizza

The **Japanese Animation Club** will sell pizza, sodas, chips and chili dogs from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Quad BBQ area on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 371-3306.

The **Bilingual Education Student Organization** will sell pizza and *aguas frescas* from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday at the **Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship** lobby in Edinburg. For more information, call 665-3213.

The **REHAB Club** will sell pizza from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday in the Mathematics and General Classroom front lawn on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-2660.

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

Hot dogs/Hamburgers

The **Christians at RGV** will sell burgers from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. today in the Library BBQ area on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 577-5539.

Omega Delta Phi Fraternity Inc. will sell hot dogs and burgers from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday in the Library CTY B area on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 683-5766.

Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc. will sell hot dogs and burgers from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday in the Library BBQ area on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email captivatingslg@gmail.com.

The **Operation Smile Club** will sell hot dogs, hot Cheetos with cheese, nachos and bottled water from 9 a.m. to

2 p.m. Wednesday in the Library BBQ area on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 874-9807.

The **Economics Society** will sell hot dogs from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Mathematics and General Classroom front lawn on the Edinburg campus. For more information, contact them on Facebook at [econsocietyutrgv](https://www.facebook.com/econsocietyutrgv).

The **Society for Human Resource Management** will sell burgers from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday in the Library BBQ area on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email shrmrgv@gmail.com.

The **American Criminal Justice Association** will sell burgers from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday in the Quad BBQ pit area on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 882-7110.

Shaved ice

The **Collegiate Entrepreneurs’ Organization** will sell **Kona Ice** from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday in the University Center Ballroom Lawn on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 554-8354.

Barbecue

Habitat for Humanity will sell barbecue from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today in the Quad BBQ pit area on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call (512) 843-9249.

Baked goods

The **British Culture Guild Club** will sell baked goods, popcorn, pickles and drinks from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email britishcultureguild@gmail.com.

Chicken plates

The **Student Veterans of America** will sell chicken plates from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at University Recreation on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call (360) 528-1425.

Chili pies

Delta Tau Lambda will sell Frito chili pies from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. today in the Library CTY A area on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 534-2870.

Tostadas

Tex-PREP will sell *tostadas* from 10:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday outside the Engineering building on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-2522, Ext. 2592.

Fruit cups

The **Financial Management Association** will sell fruit cups from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. today in the Library CTY B area on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 424-5195.

Bubble tea

The **Filipino Student Association** will sell bubble tea and water from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday in the Library CTY A area on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 507-0372.

--Compiled by Brenda Garza

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Sept. 26 and Oct. 2.



Sept. 26

10:44 p.m.: A student reported a clarinet had been stolen from a locker in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center. The student said the instrument was stolen two weeks ago, but an instructor advised to wait to see if someone else had taken it by mistake.

Sept. 27

12:21 p.m.: A driver was cited for failure to control speed and no insurance after losing control of the vehicle and striking a curb on University Boulevard. The vehicle’s rear left rim and tire were damaged.

Sept. 28

3:27 p.m.: In the Village Apartments, a resident reported that her friend punched her door out of frustration. A UTRGV police officer obtained a statement from the suspect. Residence Life asked that

the case be referred to Students Rights and Responsibilities.

Sept. 29

11:56 a.m.: An officer responded to a traffic collision involving two students. A woman allegedly made an improper turn. She reported feeling pain due to the seatbelt. A man’s left arm and shins indicated injuries, possibly due to the airbag deploying. The students were transported to local hospitals in Edinburg.

Sept. 30

11:52 a.m.: A student reported a man grabbed the tip of her fingers without consent, while she was riding the UTRGV shuttle. When they arrived on the Brownsville campus, he asked for directions, so she assisted by walking with him. While they proceeded toward Career Services, they encountered some stray dogs. He said he was scared of dogs and wrapped his arms around her right arm. The woman felt offended by the unwanted physical contact. The case is under investigation.

--Compiled by Megan Gonzalez

RISA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the work and partnerships that we built in the Brownsville area through RiSA,” Key said in a phone interview.

HESTEC is a series of events hosted by UTRGV that promotes science, technology and mathematics to students of all ages. The weeklong celebration was started at legacy institution UT Pan American.

“[UTRGV needs] to make sure that the work that they do with something as big as HESTEC impacts the whole Valley, especially in Brownsville,” Key said.

Martha Casquette, a Texas Southmost College physics instructor who used to participate in the festival, said RiSA was about bringing together science and art, making it a great event, especially for the Rio Grande Valley community.

Casquette suggested that RiSA take place this academic year.

“Since the [university] is busy with HESTEC during this semester, why not do RiSA during the spring semester? In that way, there will be more people involved in RiSA,” she said.

Should drinking age be lowered?

Bryan Ramos
THE RIDER

Alcohol consumption is embedded in the culture of the United States. It's as American as apple pie, baseball and guns.

Most people first encounter alcohol before they turn 21 years old, the minimum legal drinking age limit in the U.S. Turn on the TV and you're sure to see a commercial or three pushing some sort of new alcoholic beverage that if you drink will instantly make you cooler. Log on to any social media and it's all over your timeline with everybody trying to look like the most interesting person in the world.

"I think we live in a culture where it's really socially acceptable to drink and party underage," said Kristina Canfield, program coordinator for the Collegiate Recovery Program at UTRGV. "We definitely live in a society where our culture says 'Hey, it's OK. It's normal if you're in college to drink heavily or binge drink.'"

A recent study led by University of Texas at Austin advertising Professor Gary B. Wilcox published in the International Journal of Advertising states that "alcohol advertising media expenditures for all alcohol beverages have increased almost 400% since 1971."

In 1984, Congress passed the National Minimum Drinking Age Act. The bill was an attempt to make states fall in line, forcing them to prohibit persons under 21 years old from purchasing or publicly possessing alcoholic beverages as a condition of receiving federal funding for highways. According to the act, "the



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY OSCAR CASTILLO

Federal government can withhold 10 percent of funding for highways from states that do not prohibit people under age 21 from buying or publicly possessing any alcoholic beverage."

The U.S. is one of 12 countries where the legal drinking age limit is 21, the highest in the world, while 162 countries have a legal drinking age limit of 20 or younger. Once you turn 18 in the U.S., you can, however, buy a gun, put your life on the line fighting for your country, vote and pay taxes.

Jasmin Grimaldo, a 21-year-old junior

theater major, believes the drinking age is "a little high."

"You can go to war at 18, why can't you get a drink at 18?" Grimaldo said. "It should also be lower because it would be ingrained that it's social norm in our culture and not this level that you have to hit."

In comparison, Canada allows each province and territory to define the legal drinking age. Of the 10 provinces and three territories that make up the Canadian federation, three have set 18 as the legal drinking age while the other 10

set 19 as the minimum age limit.

In Mexico, the legal drinking age is 18 but those who are younger can be served alcohol in licensed premises if the beverage's alcohol by volume is lower than 15 percent.

Across Europe, where 19 and under is the legal age limit, casual drinking has become a socially acceptable part of the culture. Alcohol is normally consumed with each meal and not glamorized the way it is in the U.S.

A 2014 study showed nearly 88,000 people die from alcohol-related causes yearly, the fourth leading preventable cause of death in the U.S.

Science has proven that the brain isn't fully developed until age 25. Lowering the drinking age could reduce some problems, such as binge drinking and alcohol-related accidents, but it could also impact the culture in negative ways. Canfield said if the legal drinking age is lowered, alcohol education needs to increase.

"I think if we would change the drinking age without addressing the underlying issues of education about risks and harm reduction, if we don't address those things in conjunction with lowering the drinking age, we're not going to fix things. It can't just be 'let's lower the drinking age and then there won't be this big red button so we'll stop pushing it,' Canfield said. "If we're going to lower the drinking age, we need to make sure that we're really good educators and really good advocates and constantly educating young people on the risks of heavy drinking."

MASCOT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a mascot that they're not going to be happy with," Mata-Vasquez said. "We want something that they're going to be happy with and embody who our student population is. Yes, we may be taking longer than expected on the process but we also want to make sure that the process is being done correctly with as much student input as possible."

Last year, more than 2,000 students responded to a survey from the mascot committee about different characteristics the mascot should have. Students can expect more surveys as their opinion is desired in the design of the Vaquero costume.

Sophomore theater major Karina Molina said an actual Vaquero mascot could help boost campus morale for a university with 27,568 students and 14 Division I sports programs.

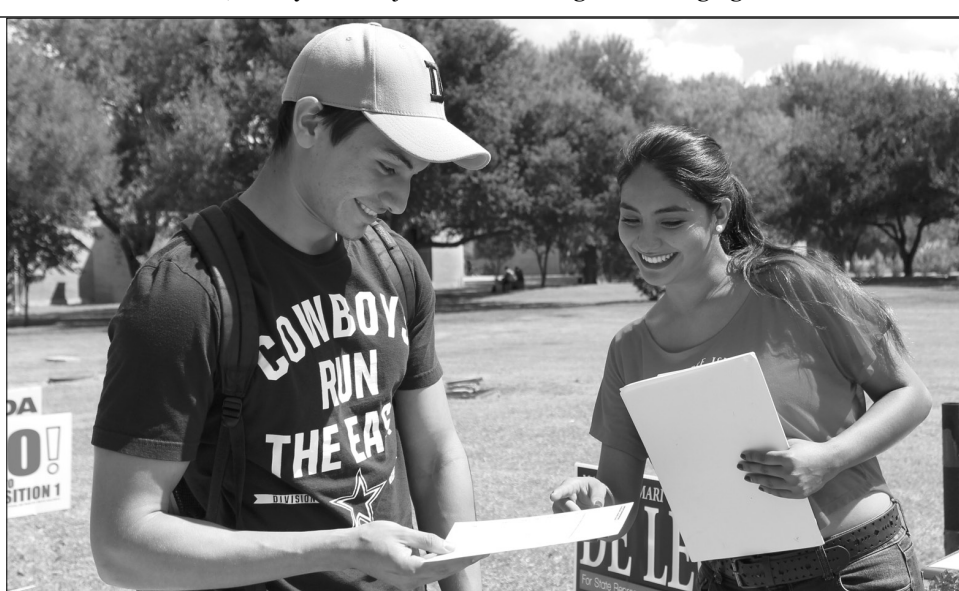
"When you go to sports events you expect to be pumped up. One of the key things that allow us to do that would be the mascot just being fun and taking pictures of them. It makes things more exciting for everybody," Molina said. "I take pride in our culture and I think having a Vaquero, which hasn't been done before, would be a really cool mascot."

This year, the mascot committee is partnering with the fine arts department to help create the perfect fit.

"What we're doing this year is partnering with one of the professors from the fine arts department who focuses on costume design and she's working on developing a group of students that are experts in costume design to help us finalize the actual costume for the mascot," Mata-Vasquez said.

The mascot committee aims to have the mascot ready by Best Week Ever in 2017, the first week of next year's fall semester.

Anyone with questions about the mascot committee and its process may email spirit@utrgv.edu.



SARAH CARVAJAL/ THE RIDER

Rehabilitation services sophomore David Valdez is assisted by political science senior Sarah Sanchez with his voter registration form outside the Student Union in Edinburg. The Texas Freedom Network and Young Republicans at UTRGV encouraged students to register to vote.

POLITICS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"If Donald Trump gets 52 percent of the popular vote in Texas, and Hillary Clinton gets 48 percent, she does not get 48 percent of the 38 electoral votes," Polinard said. "What that means is that a candidate can win the popular vote nationwide, but lose in the college."

This occurred in the 2004 election with Democratic nominee Al Gore, who won

the popular vote but lost the electoral vote to George W. Bush.

Each state must award all of its electoral votes to the winner of the plurality with the exception of two states, Maine and Nebraska.

"What Maine and Nebraska do is the winner of the popular vote in each congressional district gets that electoral vote," Polinard said.

If the Maine model were to be applied in Texas, District 15 in Hidalgo County,

which has never elected a Republican official, would most certainly give its vote to Clinton, he said.

The last time Texas awarded its electoral votes to a Democratic presidential nominee was in 1976. Democratic nominee Jimmy Carter won that election and served one term.

Asked why the Maine model was implemented in some states, Polinard replied: "If you're a Democratic state, a blue state, and your state government is controlled by Democrats, you're not going to change that 'cause right now, you get all the electoral votes. You're not going to make it easier for Republicans to get votes."

Aguilar said he believes the Electoral College makes the Democratic vote weak in Texas.

"If you're a Democrat in Texas, you probably shouldn't even bother going to the polls because your vote won't count in the end, because Texas is a very strong red state," he said.

In the 2012 election, Republican nominee Mitt Romney received 1 million more votes than Democrat Barack Obama in Texas.

Vaqueros Vote will conduct a voter registration drive from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville and Chapel Lawn in Edinburg. This will be the last day to register to vote for the Nov. 8 election.

Early voting will begin Oct. 24 and end Nov. 4.

ZIKA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

all cases in 2016 that were flavivirus unspecified were looked at again and this case, in particular, was reclassified from flavivirus unspecified to a probable Zika virus disease."

Many people infected with Zika will not have any type of symptoms or will have mild symptoms, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website.

Lozano said there are four major symptoms that they look for: fever, joint pain, rash and conjunctivitis.

"We strongly encourage anybody that shows any symptoms or that has traveled to a country in the Western Hemisphere that may have mosquitoes ... [to] go and see your primary physician, especially females that are pregnant and they're in their first trimester," he said.

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HESTEC WEEK

EDUCATOR DAY

LEADERSHIP DAY

LATINA DAY

ROBOTICS DAY

From Arizona to Hollywood

Brenda Garza
THE RIDER



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Fredri Lajvardi, a high school teacher from Phoenix, Ariz., gave the special keynote address during HESTEC's Educator Day Oct. 3 at the UTRGV Fieldhouse in Edinburg. Lajvardi shared his story of how he led a group of underprivileged high school students to win a national championship title in the Marine Advanced Technology Education National ROV Championships in Santa Barbara, Calif. Their story inspired the film "Spare Parts," which stars George Lopez.

Lajvardi said during a his presentation.

He mentioned how the students began to have confidence in themselves and their underwater robot named Stinky, much in part because of the smell of the PVC pipe glues.

Lajvardi said if you don't take risks, you'll never know if it will pay off.

Barriers were broken and the mechanical engineering club would go on to win multiple awards. They received the Elegance and Design award, Best Technical Award and they went home with first place.

It wasn't until eight months later, when a reporter saw the press release Lajvardi had sent out about the winning team, that the news broke.

"A high school had beat MIT," Lajvardi said.

The movie "Spare Parts," based on Lajvardi and his team's success, was released on Jan. 16, 2015. Actor George Lopez plays Lajvardi in the movie, which grossed \$3.6 million and inspired a documentary.

"Underwater Dreams" documents the journey the students and Lajvardi took to become the first high school to enter a university robotics competition and win. And in February of 2017, "Dream Big," the first STEM educational film, will be released in IMAX theaters, which will feature these students and their teacher.



The U.S. Navy Band Southeast Brass Quintet performs during HESTEC Educator Day on Oct. 3 at UTRGV's Fieldhouse. Educators from across the Rio Grande Valley gathered for the opening of the 15th annual Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology Week. See slideshow at utrgvrider.com.

The UTRGV Fieldhouse was decorated in wall-to-wall blue fabric, its lights were dimmed and round tables were filled with attendees, giving it a classic ambience, as KGBT-TV Channel 4 anchor Marcy Martinez presented Faridodin "Fredri" Lajvardi.

Lajvardi, a mechanical engineering teacher at Carl Hayden High School in Phoenix, Ariz., was the special keynote speaker for HESTEC's Educator Day.

He spoke highly of his students. The inner-city school with high crime and low test scores made him aware that as a young teacher, he had so much ground to cover.

"I kept hearing my students say, 'I'm the first one in my family graduating high school,' and that made me think," Lajvardi said.

He wanted to get the school and the students positive recognition, so they built their first electric race car and got sponsors to help raise funds for the parts.

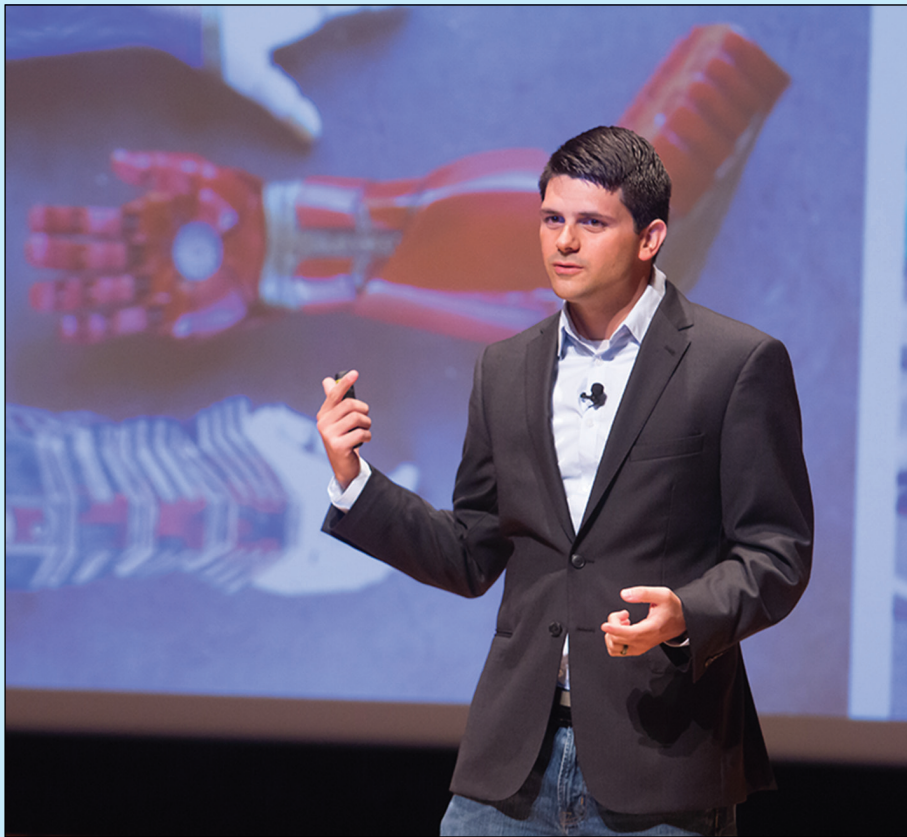
His students started asking him which classes to take in high school and in college to help them learn more about what they were doing.

"They wanted to take classes they would normally run from, like physics, geometry and other classes that they would normally hate," Lajvardi said. "They wanted to take them and learn."

They entered their first competition in underwater robotics against universities like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Lajvardi said they were meant to fail, so they could learn what it took to win.

"The students had little going for them,"

A new view of engineering



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Limbitless Solutions founder Albert Manero shows the designs of various 3-D robotic arms his nonprofit organization created during Student Leadership Day of HESTEC 2016 at the Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg. Manero was the guest speaker last Tuesday at the Distinguished Speaker Series, sponsored by Student Involvement.

Megan Gonzalez

THE RIDER

Albert Manero dreamt of building space planes as an aerospace engineer at the University of Central Florida. That was until he received an email from a mother asking him to build a prosthetic arm for her son, Alex Pring.

Last Tuesday, Manero, founder and executive director of Limbitless Solutions, was the guest speaker of the UTRGV Distinguished Speaker Series at the Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg.

Limbitless Solutions is a nonprofit organization devoted to providing 3-D printed bionic arms to children around the world. With a team of 85 students, the company has received thousands of requests from more than 20 countries.

A traditional prosthetic arm can cost \$40,000 and some insurance companies don't recognize it as a medical necessity. Yet, Limbitless Solutions sold its prosthetics for 1 percent of the original price.

"What came to my attention, when it started showing up in my email inbox, is that there's about a billion people around the world who have some sort of disability," Manero said. "And, if you look at some of these countries, there's like, 30 million people who need a form of prosthetic."

Unsure about the predicament, he called his friends, who are in different career paths, for assistance and in 2014 Limbitless presented its first bionic arm to Alex. Now, the children with 3-D printed prosthetics are bringing their bionic arms to their schools and changing the perspective of engineering.

"We've found that somewhere between fourth grade and eighth grade, we've ruined science for people. I'm not sure if any of you had that experience," Manero said. "The perspective is that as an engineer, we just wear white lab coats. We don't talk to anyone. We can't make eye contact and everything we do just kind of stays in the laboratory."

In 2013, the Junior Achievement USA and ING U.S. Foundation presented a Teens and Careers Survey, which revealed a decline in teens' interest in science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) and medical-related fields.

Thanks to Limbitless Solutions, people are seeing the children in a different way. What were once harsh questions are now amazement by the new technology.

From actor Robert Downey Jr. to the performance art company Blue Man Group, many people have collaborated with the Limbitless team to help change the lives of children all around the world.

The first prosthetic arm's design was plain. There were no designs, but only a simple white color. But as time went on, Manero began to hear feedback from the children. They wanted something more personal and humane.

Soon, the Limbitless team not only focused on STEM but also STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math), an ethos for the modern age in which art and science come together.

"It takes a big team. It takes a really big team," Manero said. "It's going to take a culture change to where we look at engineering and technology as a tool that really changes our community on a local level and a global level."

Inspiring young women

Sergio Garcia

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Latina Day, an event that was part of UTRGV's Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology Week (HESTEC), featured successful female professionals who shared their personal experiences to motivate and inspire students to pursue their dreams.

This year's mistress of ceremonies was Tania Leal, a weather anchor for KTML Telemundo 40. Among the invited speakers were Patricia Metcalf, area manager for ExxonMobil; Veronica Gonzales, UTRGV vice president for Governmental and Community Relations; retiring U.S. Rep. Ruben Hinojosa (D-Texas); Rosa Flores, a CNN correspondent; Sara Martinez Tucker, a UT System regent; Maggie Hinojosa, UTRGV vice president for Strategic Enrollment; Monica Regalbuto, assistant secretary of the Office of Environmental Management for the U.S. Energy Department; and Jonah Goldberg, UTRGV associate athletic director for communications.

About 700 mothers and daughters gathered in the UTRGV Fieldhouse to listen to the advice and experiences of the speakers.

"I know that by you being here, the Valley is going to be a better place, Texas is going to be a better place, this world is going to be a better place, and who best than you to get us there," Flores said.

With a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism and a master's degree in accounting from the University of Texas at Austin, Flores said how at one point she used to sell "queso fresco mexicano" to support her family in difficult times. She said there will always be difficulties, but it is important to follow your dreams and pursue the career you want.

"I think that this is a very special event," Leal said. "I really enjoy it. I'm proud that UTRGV is having these types of events because getting all the mothers together with their daughters is something great."



HESTEC Latina Day attendees from Weslaco High School and their parents enjoy the Mariachi Aztlan performance last Wednesday at the UTRGV Fieldhouse.

She told *The Rider*: "Me parece increíble. Me parece perfecto y grandioso que hagan este tipo de eventos porque vuelve otra vez a darle esa importancia a las madres e hijas; el recordarle como el apoyo de las madres es tan esencial para nuestras carreras, para nuestros futuros. Lo digo como, como mujer latina, especialmente porque tenemos esa cultura de siempre ser tan amorosas apoyando a nuestros hijos, a nuestros hermanos, a nuestras madres, siempre estamos ahí en los momentos difíciles, entonces volver a traer esto en este evento como que llena a mucha gente de inspiración y más que nada orgullo de ser latino."

"I'm here today to tell you that at UTRGV we will take care of you," Maggie Hinojosa said. "We will answer your questions."

She told the audience how one can do anything if they put their mind to it and that UTRGV is here to help in the process.

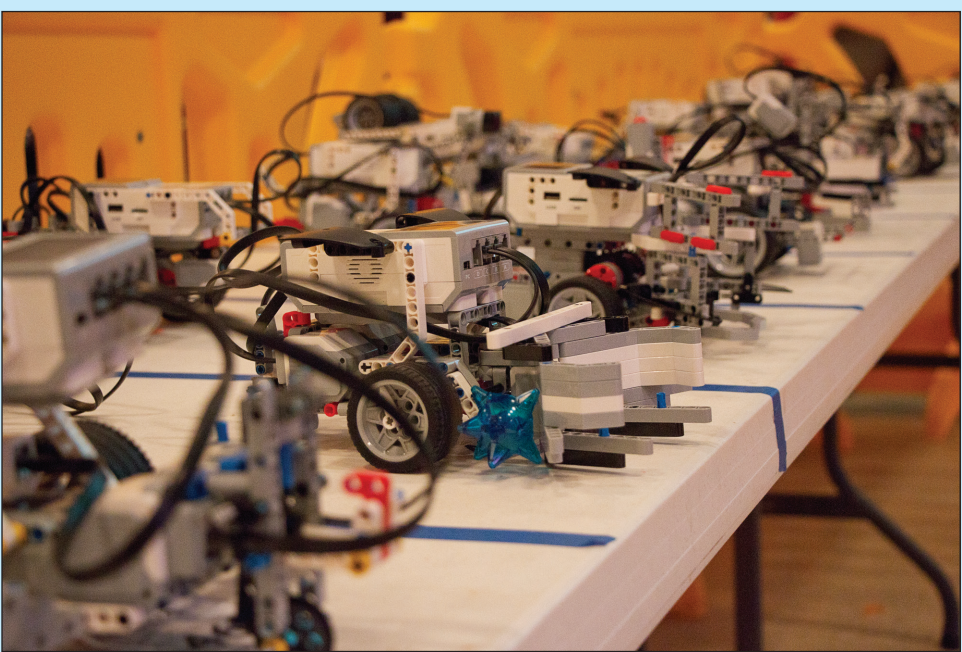
"Latina women are strong; Latina women are smart," Regalbuto said.

Regalbuto, a native of Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, told the audience about her journey to achieve her dreams and become a chemical engineer from the Monterrey Institute of Technology.

Rep. Hinojosa said he was "honored and very happy" to be at the 15th anniversary of HESTEC. He said 15 years ago he proposed to Miguel Nevárez, the president of UT Pan American at the time, a partnership between the university and his congressional staff to develop an initiative called HESTEC.

"It has been absolutely fabulous," Hinojosa said.

All attendees got together for a group picture at the end of the event. The event concluded with a prize drawing that included two pairs of boots, one for the mother and one for her daughter.



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER PHOTOS

The Lego Mindstorms programmable robots used throughout the competition are displayed while the teams eat lunch.

ROBOTICS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sponsors also enjoyed the event.

"It's been a lot of fun with the kids and everything," said Peter Lounsbery from Border Technology by Peter. "Everybody cooperated. ... It ran really smooth."

After several trivia games, judges, staff members, and organizers announced the first-, second- and third-place winners.

"We've been waiting all day for this," said Tim Smith, master of ceremonies for the event. "Your overall champion of this year is Alton Memorial Middle School."

After receiving medals, a tablet and the biggest trophy of the event, the Alton coaches and students posed for the camera.

"You have to fail in order to succeed," said Robert Granados, the coach of Alton Memorial Junior High School. "In the previous years, we were always so close to win, but yet we never jumped that little hump that we had."

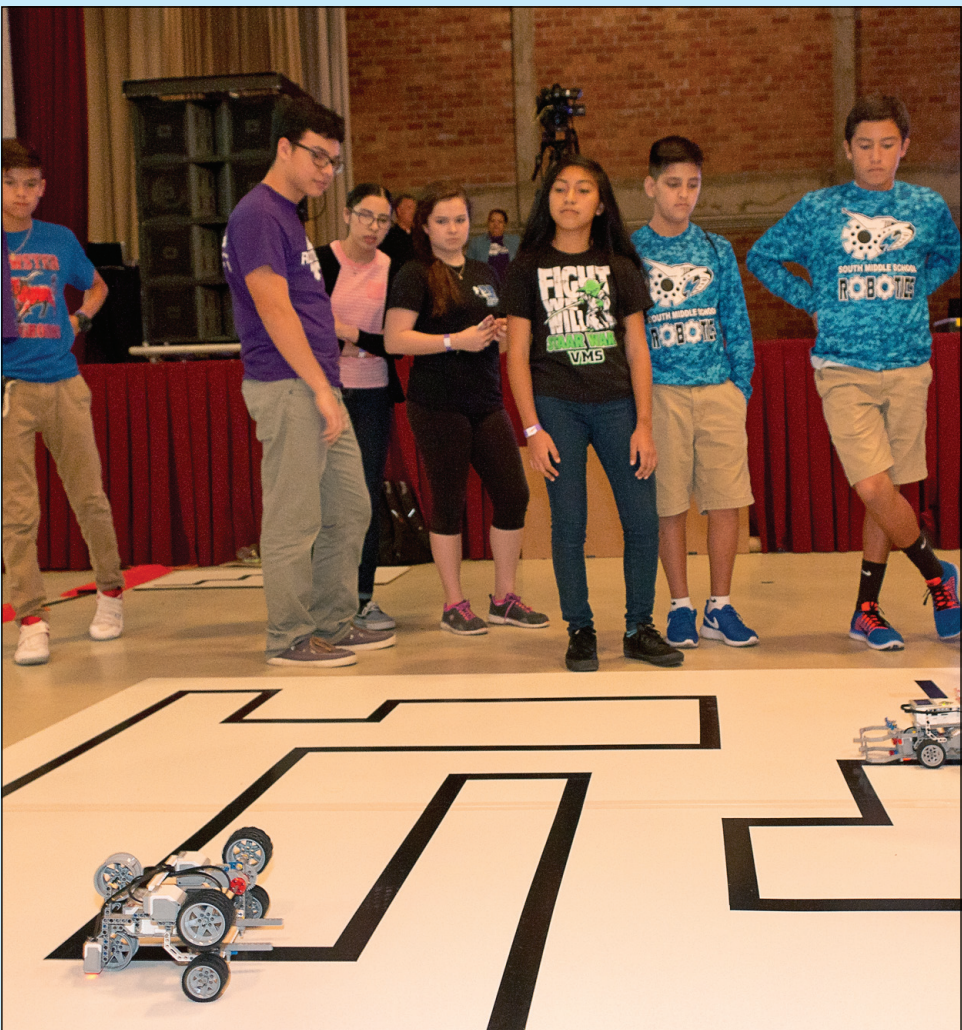
The school has participated for four consecutive years in this event.

"We had two third places," said fellow Alton Coach Sammy Rivera. "There was a lot of good competition."

"We keep setting the bar really high and these kids keep matching it," Rivera said. "They never quit on us."

Rivera said the first prize was well deserved for Alton.

"It was a really intense competition," Granados said.



Students from middle and high schools across the Rio Grande Valley participate in multiple competitions with programmable robots.

Vaquero Voice

2016 Presidential Election



“In my opinion, the elections, they are a difficult one this time. I did vote for Bernie Sanders and he would still be my choice and I haven’t really decided who I would like to choose between the two candidates. For sure not Donald Trump, but some things about Hillary still have me on the fence. I’m not sure. I do want to watch the debates that are going to happen this week and see what happens, but I haven’t made up my mind.”

John Guerra
Art junior

So, it’s just not Trump or Clinton running for president. There is other people such as Gary Johnson, but if you could get all the good qualifications from each candidate and form a new one, I would probably vote for that new one because there is no such thing as a perfect candidate because everyone, they always have something good to offer to the table as well as they have bad things to offer to the table.”



Alondra Glavan
Criminal justice junior



“It’s kind of different from the campaigns we had before because, before, they were a bit more optimistic than this time around, and everyone says that Trump and Hillary are the absolute worst. Granted, they are not exactly the best, but they wouldn’t be what really people make them out to be.”

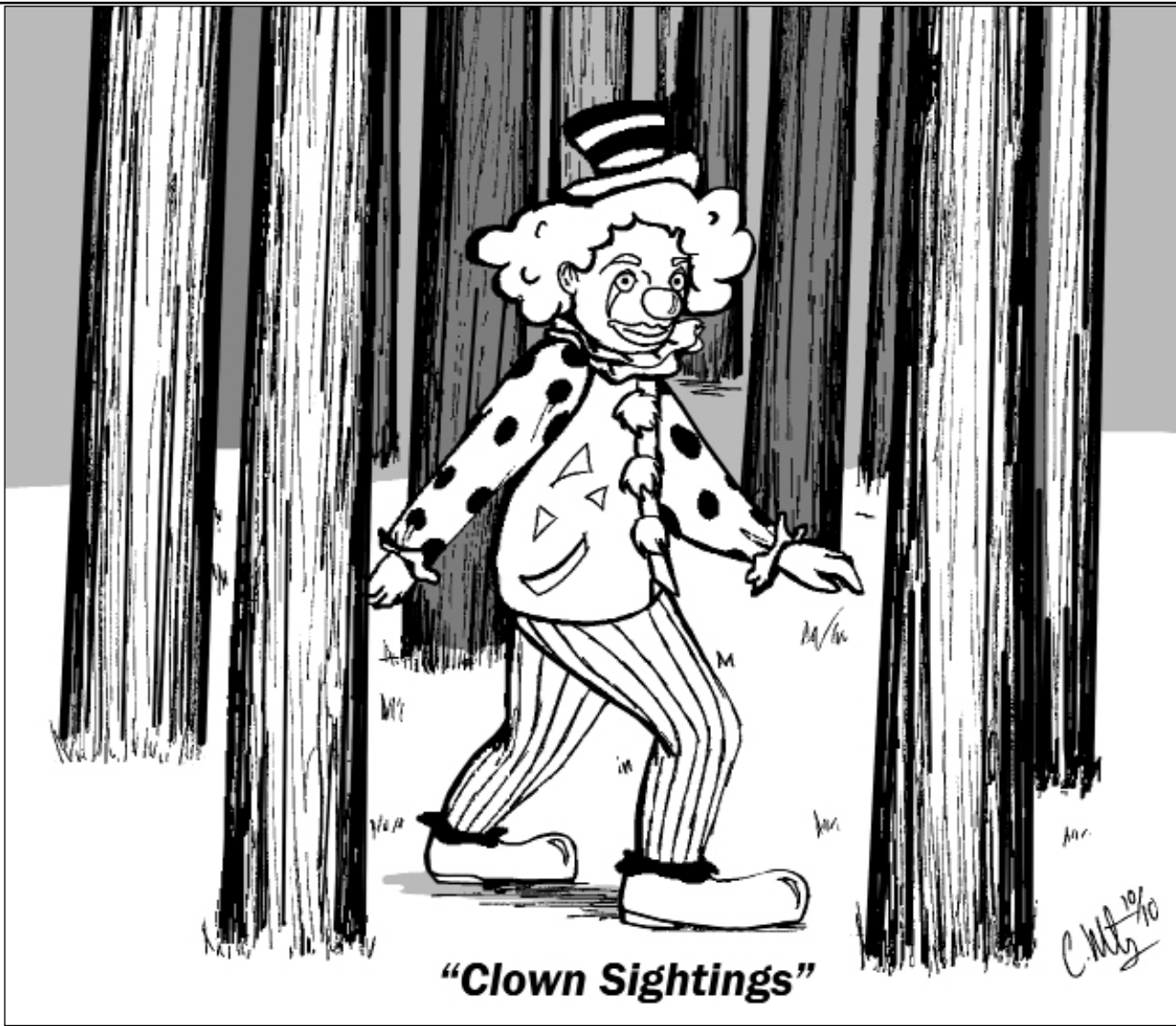
Fabian D. Gonzalez
Psychology junior

“I think that it is hard to choose between someone that we know and classify as a racist and between somebody that we know and classify as a two-faced. So, I think that it is a very difficult decision, and I know of a lot of people who are not voting in this presidential election because it’s so difficult to choose between the two. Either way, I think that some people are only looking at the good things about the candidates and they are not looking at the big picture because they are so drastic. They both have very bad and negative things about them, and in the end we will just have to choose.”



Estefania Peña
Social work freshman

--Compiled by Ana Cahuiche and Lesley Robles



The day I stop learning is the day I die

My insatiable need to learn new skills



Gabriel Mata
THE RIDER

It didn’t start until I was in my sophomore year of high school; I’d just dropped out of the marching band and was just an ordinary student. The thing about that is I didn’t want to be an ordinary student. I wanted something to do.

Being in band, I already had an inclination to music. My brother had recently moved out and he’d left his Fender acoustic guitar, so I decided to pick that up.

I’d spend the rest of my sophomore evenings practicing guitar. I’d use YouTube and various other websites to teach myself chords, songs and scales.

That was all well and good, but something in me wanted more. I researched and found myself a ukulele that I could afford and bought that the first chance I got. Another few months of nothing but learning the ukulele (and plenty of bloody fingers from strumming the ukulele).

My junior year was no different. Piano, mandolin, ocarina, anything I could get my hands on. My thirst

only grew. Senior year, my interests moved to film and photography. I would spend countless hours researching angles, lenses, cameras and writing. I didn’t even get my hands on a camera until a year later.

I’ve learned to build a PC on my own. I’ve learned how wireless electricity works and am in the process of building a Tesla coil. It hasn’t always been apparent, but I’ve always had that lust to learn anything and everything I can.

All these things that I now know, they represent who I

“The reason you don’t usually laugh at a joke twice is because you’ve learned the punch line ...”

am. I’m no longer just Gabriel Mata the computer science student, I’m now known to more as Gabriel Mata the photographer, or Gabriel Mata the musician. Even with this wealth of knowledge that I have now, I think it’s important to never stop learning.

The reason you don’t usually laugh at a joke twice is because you’ve learned the punch line, and the reason that you don’t go to class or work naked is because you’ve learned that it’s not socially acceptable (at least in our society).

So, whether it be little things like hearing a joke for the first time, or picking up a camera and deciding that you want to be a photographer, I encourage you to never stop learning, because I know that the day I stop learning is the day that I die.

Letter to the Editor

Clinton better than Trump



So tempting to declare that Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton represent an election of the “Lesser of two evils.”

But Clinton, my choice, is much more than a lame favorite for president.

She is strongly qualified to be president than Trump.

She will nominate more inclusive Americans for the Supreme Court.

She is a strong advocate for women’s health.

She is very aware that the environment/planet are in danger.

For me, Clinton is superior by far to Trump—not as a weak example of better.

Eugene “Gene” Novogrodsky
Brownsville

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Waltzing into WAC

Women's soccer starts conference with heads high

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

As summer gives way to fall, nonconference play turns into the Western Athletic Conference season. Glad Bugariu and his women's soccer team are the third UTRGV program to start conference in 2016.

The ladies of the pitch have played 20 conference games since the women's soccer team was added in 2014 at legacy institution UT Pan American. They have accumulated a 5-14-1 all-time WAC record and hope to improve on that this season.

During the preseason, they put together a string of really impressive outings at home and on the road. The strong nonconference play consisted of moments of stout defense, not allowing a goal in five consecutive matches. The shutout stretch was a cumulative effort from not only the three goaltenders that saw playing time, but also the defense in front of them.

Their 8-2-1 record prior to conference can be attributed to their opponents only scoring 0.53 goals per game.

Elisa Espino, a senior midfielder in her second year with the program, said the combination of a disappointing conference season last year and this year's start is reason to be excited.

"We're pretty excited; we had really good nonconference games," Espino said. "We feel really comfortable playing [with] each other. But also we are aware that conference is harder and really important. We want to make an impact in our conference. Last year, we didn't do that well, but that helps us to step up and be better this year."

In 2015, it took the Vaqueros seven WAC games to earn their first conference victory. In the



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER

UTRGV freshman forward Sarah Bonney goes for a goal after passing two Texas A&M International University defenders during last Tuesday's game at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex in Edinburg. The women's soccer team began WAC play this past weekend.

losing streak of six games to begin conference they were only able to muster one goal. This year, offense seems to be a strong point of the team, rather than a limitation.

Junior forward Andreyra Barrera said the strong defense makes for strong offense. She pointed to speedy defenders that feed into their attack.

"Our center backs are strong and the way our outside backs get up and down the field it helps even more of the attack," Barrera said. "I feel like if you have a really strong attack, then our defense is unbeatable and especially if our defense is helping us attack, it's more of a double threat."

After the shutout streak was broken with a 1-0 loss to UTEP, the Vaqueros went on an offensive tear to close

nonconference. In three games, they totaled 19 goals, including a record-breaking 11-0 thumping of Hampton University. Freshman Sarah Bonney exploded offensively, scoring five goals in that match. Bonney leads the team in scoring, but is one of 13 players that found the back of the net before conference started with the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Head Coach Glad Bugariu said a strong scorer helps the offense with options on attack.

"There's certainly a lot of options and different kind of players that can match up well against different kinds of defenses," Bugariu said. "So we have lots of choices and that's always good for coaches. They're all playing well and making selection, as far as

starting lineup, difficult for us."

As the season progresses and rosters are set, Bugariu hopes the consistency they are playing with is here to stay.

"Overall, I think we played consistently well over nine out of 11 games," he said. "And consistent performance will give consistent results, so that's what I take from nonconference. I don't think we've ever done that in our first two years, have real consistent play. I'm not talking about wins and losses; I'm talking about performance."

Performance will need to be elevated as they take on the tough competition and natural rivals within the Western Athletic Conference.

UTRGV will be at home twice this weekend as they face Utah Valley and Seattle University for the Friday and Sunday conference double.

Finnish sevenfold bring style to UTRGV

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

Bryan Ramos
THE RIDER

The men's soccer team at UTRGV is in just its second season after almost a 20-year hiatus. Head Coach Paul Leese had a type of player in mind when charged with the task of building a program from the ground up.

"Starting a team from scratch, I wanted disciplined, intelligent, hard-working student-athletes," Leese said.

He found seven of the type hailing from Finland, the Northern European country more than 9,000 miles away from Edinburg.

Senior defender Sami Tittanen, junior forward Olli Tynkkynen and senior midfielder Rico Laitinen are all from Lahti, Finland, and played on the same team before joining forces at UTRGV.

Rounding out the group of Finnish players on the squad are redshirts Teemu Vaarakallio, a junior from Helsinki; sophomore defender Markus Björs of Espoo; and freshmen Esa Aalto of Turku and Jaakko Hietikko of Tuusula. The group of seven makes up almost one-third of the 24-man roster.

Vaarakallio started playing soccer as a kid and decided to



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER

Seven Finnish players are on the UTRGV Men's Soccer Team. They are Teemu Vaarakallio (from left), Rico Laitinen, Jaakko Hietikko, Esa Aalto, Olli Tynkkynen, Markus Björs and Sami Tiittanen.

travel thousands of miles away to play the game he loves.

"As soon I started walking around, I started kicking the

ball around with my father and godfathers," Vaarakallio said. "I know whatever I have in Finland is always going to

be there for me, I can always go back. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. So, I really wanted to take the chance and

of the Coker College Cobras in Hartsville, S.C. Niko Tirkkonen transferred to Coker College to play for Leese, who admired Tirkkonen's discipline and how hard he worked in and out of the classroom as a student-athlete.

Tirkkonen went on to play professionally in Finland after graduating but remains good friends with Leese, recommending Finnish talent to the UTRGV coach he thinks would fit his style of play.

"They have great education systems and that carries over into soccer. It made it easy for them to come to an environment, like Division I sports, where you need to be disciplined, you need to go to class, you need to take care of your diet and your work," Leese said. "Rico, Markus, Esa, Jaakko, Olli, that's five that were all part of the youth national team for Finland, so that's really helped us try and lay the foundation here."

Finland is a country that sees only two to three months of summer weather. Even then, the temperature averages a cool 63 degrees Fahrenheit during the warmest part of the year.

Laitinen said Finland's weather played a big factor in his decision to move to America.



See what it's like."

The Vaqueros and their Finnish connection started when Leese was the head coach

ATHLETE

OF THE

WEEK



PHOTO COURTESY ROMEO VILLARREAL

Name: Elliot Johnstone
Sport: Tennis
Classification: Junior
Major: Accounting
Age: 20
Hometown: Tasmania, Australia

Who is your favorite athlete? "Lleyton Hewitt, because he's pretty much the best Australian tennis player, so we all looked up to him back home."

Who is your role model? "Probably, my dad. I never had a tennis coach growing up until I was 12. He didn't know much about it, but he just kept helping me out and got me over here."

What is the best advice you've been given and by whom? "Probably not one specific person, but just a number of people have sort of said just listen to everyone, respect everyone and take everything on board. And, if someone says something different, just take that on board and keep taking things on board."

When did you begin playing tennis, and why? "I started when I was about 3. My mom used to play once a week, and I used to just go with her and ask everyone to hit with me."

What's your favorite place to hang out on campus? "We train every morning, 7 to 10 [a.m.], and I usually go home and go to sleep, so I would say my apartment is my favorite place on campus."

What are your academic goals? "My dad is friends with a few accountants and they seem like they make a lot of money, so I took that path. I don't mind, like, numbers and finance and things like that."

How do you feel about being part of this team? "It's good. We're sort of rebuilding again. We went through kind of a tough year last year. We had a good first year that I was here. We had a sound coach and a solid team. Last year, we had a solid team, but we didn't really jell, so we're rebuilding again and hoping to get a few more players in January so we can get back into it."

What are your personal goals for this season? "Last year, I had a positive record. I want to go through this season and just not lose many matches, really. I'm a junior now, an upperclassman, so I've got to pretty much take responsibility of the team and not rely on the younger guys. So, I've got to win the majority of my matches."

--Compiled by Sarah Carvajal

Actividades del mes de la herencia latina educan y crean consciencia

Rebeca Ortiz
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

La hispanidad es universal. El viaje exploratorio de Cristóbal Colón no solo consistió en el descubrimiento de nuevas tierras sino en el implante de la lengua española en los lugares donde se iban asentando.

El Centro para Estudios México-Americanos, (CMAS) por sus siglas en inglés, ha unido fuerzas con diversas organizaciones para traer a los dos campus de UTRGV una serie de eventos culturales y enriquecedores en los que destaca el Simposio de Estudiantes Latinos en la Educación Pública: Estudios Étnicos y Éxito Académico, el cual es patrocinado por el centro para Estudios México-Americanos, la oficina de Participación Estudiantil y La Unión de Chicanxs Hijxs de Aztlán (LUCHA).

Dicho evento tomará lugar hoy en El Gran Salón del campus Brownsville de 8:45 a.m. a 5 p.m.

El simposio reunirá a estudiantes, miembros de la comunidad y educadores para engancharlos en discusiones y talleres sobre estudios étnicos y un plan de estudios culturalmente relevante acerca del éxito académico de los estudiantes latinos de nivel preescolar a licenciatura, de acuerdo a su descripción oficial.

“Estamos muy emocionados de tener a la Dr. Ángela Valenzuela, quien va a dar un discurso latino acerca del pasado, presente y futuro de los estudios étnicos para después tener un taller con el Dr. Julio Cammarota, quien viene de la Universidad de Iowa para darnos el taller sobre el programa de justicia educativa”, dijo Emmy Pérez, directora interina del centro para Estudios México-Americanos.

Al simposio y taller asistirán los estudiantes de Homer Hanna Early College High School y de South Texas Business, Education & Technology Academy. El simposio estará abierto al público y no tendrá ningún costo.

Dentro del simposio habrá una mesa redonda denominada “Rechaza este texto: Discusión sobre el libro de texto propuesto para la herencia México-Americana” facilitada por los profesor Emilio Zamora y Christopher Carmona; una presentación y discusión sobre “Los estudios México-Americanos en el Valle del Rio Grande” por la profesora Stephanie Álvarez, y los estudiantes de postgrado Valerie Cerda y Alejandro Sánchez.

“Estamos muy emocionados con todos estos eventos porque aunque



Michelle Espinoza/FOTOS RIDER

Codirector de “Mientras camino por el valle”, Charlie Velazquez habla con el estudiante de primer año José González acerca de la vida musical en el centro durante la mesa redonda del pasado jueves en el campus de Brownsville.

nuestro campus sea 90 por ciento latino es importante que los estudiantes, la comunidad, la facultad y el staff se reúnan para aprender más acerca de la herencia latina y México-Americana, porque aunque muchos de nosotros nacimos dentro de la cultura, no sabemos todo”, dijo Pérez. “Creo que esta es una oportunidad para que no solo celebremos nuestra herencia cultural sino para que podamos aprender de ella y para saber lo que los académicos están diciendo al respecto”.

Dijo ella acerca de las discusiones que el centro para Estudios México-Americanos y otros departamentos están patrocinando y copatrocinando sobre los latinos y la educación pública sobre “cómo podemos agregar más estudios étnicos en los niveles de preescolar a preparatoria en el sistema escolar”.

Al preguntarle a Pérez que hacía a estos expositores ideales para las actividades de este mes dijo que Valenzuela, quien es experta en política, hablaría sobre lo que se puede hacer en Texas por los estudios étnicos.

Mientras que Cammarota, coeditor del volumen en estudios étnicos, “*Estudios*

de la Raza: La opción pública para la revolución educativa”, ha trabajado incansablemente para crear el programa de estudios de la Raza, el cual fue prohibido en el estado de Arizona el año pasado debido a la ley que prohíbe los estudios México-Americanos en los niveles preescolar a preparatoria en el distrito escolar de Tucson, Arizona.

De igual manera, la facultad de artes liberales será el patrocinador de la presentación de la autora Diana López, quien hablará de “Los retos y oportunidades de los escritores de libros

“ “Creo que esta es una oportunidad para que no solo celebremos nuestra herencia cultural sino para que podamos aprender de ella y para saber lo que los académicos están diciendo al respecto.”

Emmy Pérez
Directora interina de CMAS

Room, a las 5 p.m.

Este jueves, dos eventos serán los encargados de cerrar las actividades del mes de la herencia latina de este año, y se trata de la “Serie de Oradores de Anzaldúa en filosofía”, copatrocinada por el centro para Estudios México-Americanos y la oficina de Participación Estudiantil, y la “Noche de Danza Latina”, patrocinada por la fraternidad Sigma Lambda Beta,

asentada en el campus Edinburg.

El primero tendrá de expositor al profesor Omar Rivera de Southwestern University ubicada en Georgetown, quien “hablará desde la perspectiva filosófica sobre las teorías de Anzaldúa como filósofa sobre la cosmología andina autóctona”, dijo Pérez.

Sigma Lambda Beta, cuya misión es nutrir un ambiente dinámico usando como catalizador su fraternidad latina histórica para servir mejor a toda la gente, de acuerdo a su página oficial, son los patrocinadores de su evento anual, Noche de Danza Latina, el cual es producto de su colaboración con el Rhythm Room de McAllen.

“Es una forma para nosotros exponernos a un estilo de baile con el que a lo mejor no estamos familiarizados. ... Es una buena forma para revivir la cultura hispana”, dijo Miguel Venegas, jefe del departamento Académico y de Consciencia Cultural de Sigma Lambda Beta.

Este año es el turno de la bachata. Instructores de Rhythm Room ofrecerán una lección gratis de bachata a partir de las 7:30 p.m. en el edificio Sociedad de Alumnos (Student Union) del campus Edinburg.

“Aquí en el valle la mayoría somos mexicanos o México-Americanos y es lo que la mayoría de nosotros sabemos, es muy buena forma para nosotros enseñarnos de la gran variedad y la cultura que tenemos entre la comunidad hispana. No nada más son mexicanos, son colombianos, son puertorriqueños, son cubanos, es muy buena forma para enseñarles más de nuestra diversidad, pero para también saber que tan similares tenemos nuestras culturas”, dijo Venegas.

Un evento similar tomó lugar el pasado jueves, en el campus Brownsville. “Música en el Valle del Rio Grande: sus diversas influencias y escenas” fue presidido por el profesor Christopher Carmona; Claudia Michelle Serrano, cofundadora de Artistas y Músicos de Brownsville, (BAM) por sus siglas en inglés; y los cineastas Ronnie Garza y Charlie Vela, quienes están dirigiendo el documental, “Mientras camino por el valle” sobre las personas que han hecho música aquí en el valle en los últimos 40 años.

“El propósito de esta mesa redonda es hablar de las diversas escenas musicales en los alrededores del valle y hablar sobre la historia de la música aquí en el valle”, dijo Carmona.



Michelle Serrano, cofundadora de BAM (de izquierda), Christopher Carmona y Ronnie Garza, codirector del documental, “Mientras camino por el valle”, discuten las diferentes escenas musicales.

Comic twist to ‘Jekyll and Hyde’

Megan Gonzalez
THE RIDER

“Chemical Imbalance,” a comical adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson’s novella, “The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde,” will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre in the Arts and Humanities Building.

It will be UT Pan American graduate Kent Smither’s fourth student production for UTRGV. His past university productions include “Macbeth” and “The Man of La Mancha.” This will be his first show since his retirement from Edcouch-Elsa High School.

“In the original, it leads to tragedy and all sorts of things; in this, it leads to comedy,” Smither said about the play. “So, we’ve got this man taking a potion to make himself evil and discovering a pair of twins, one of whom is the evil twin and one of whom is the good twin. He decides that their blood is going to be the key to his potion. So, there’s all sorts of misadventures trying to get the blood of these little *girls*, basically, so he can add it to his potion.”

Jennifer Saxton, an assistant professor for the Department of Theatre, said the show is a great Halloween and comedy show.

“It’s Jekyll and Hyde,” Saxton said. “So, it’s a familiar story but it’s told in a new, irreverent way.”

Originally, the department wanted to do a Halloween show every other year, but due to popularity, the plays have been performed every year for the last three years.

The cast is composed of Rene Gonzalez (who plays Euphronia Jekyll), Jacqueline Corte (Ambrosia Jekyll/Constable), Bruce Gutierrez (Henry Jekyll/Hyde), Valerie Prince (Calliope/Penelope Throckmortonshire), Ana



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

The student-led play, Chemical Imbalance, will be showcased starting October 12 at UTRGV’s Albert L. Jeffers Theatre in the Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus.

Waldo (Rosamunda Dewthistle), Jonathan Tamez (Xavier Utterson/Police Lieutenant), Sabrina Rodriguez (Ivy), Selina Alvarado (Plodgett), and Daniel Garza and Gerardo Garcia (footmen).

Admission is \$5 and tickets can be

purchased at the box office one hour before each performance.

No children below the third grade will be admitted.

“This will be a studio presentation,” Smither said. “Some of the subject matter

might be a bit more sophisticated.”

A dress rehearsal is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. Admission is free.

For more information, call Elva Galvan, theatre business manager, at 665-3581 or email elva.galvan@utrgv.edu.

From photos to drawings

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

More than 40 people attended the opening reception for “Learning to Fly,” the second exhibition of the fall semester, at the Rusteberg Art Gallery. The art show consists of more than 20 framed drawings, artifacts and handwritten texts by San Antonio artist Kim Bishop.

“The series of graphite images is inspired by a series of photographs I took when I was 9 years old,” Bishop said in her artist’s statement. “I traveled with my mom, stepfather, father and stepmother to Ireland for six months.”

She said the trip became one of the most impactful transformative experiences of her life. She documented some of the memories of the trip with a Polaroid camera that her grandparents had given her before she left home.

“I have translated these photographs along with my memories to record my feelings of displacement and the survival

mechanisms I was required to invent as I found my wings in a strange and lonely place,” her statement reads.

“It is an interesting piece because it’s based on a series of photographs of when she was 9 years old. ... She is interpreting memories,” said Patrick Fatica, an art lecturer.

In the drawings you will see characters such as Mary, Daniel, Mother and herself. The drawings are arranged sequentially to create “the narrative framework of her story.”

“She has so many details, you just have to keep looking,” said art history senior Leslie Diaz.

Alejandro Macias, an art lecturer, said Bishop has great graphic skills.

“Her skill is incredible to me,” Macias said. “I really wanted to show the students her capability of being able to do these things with graphite.”

The exhibition runs through Oct. 28.



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Fine arts junior Blanca Soberanes looks at “Mother,” by artist Kim Bishop, last Wednesday during the second exhibition of the fall semester in the Art Gallery in Rusteberg Hall in Brownsville.

FINNISH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

“Obviously, hockey is the biggest thing in Finland because we have a really long winter there. There are some good soccer facilities but they did not have that much money. That was one of the big factors when all of us decided to come over here, because the facilities and the environment here,” Laitinen said. “One of the biggest things for me when I was thinking about coming here was playing on natural grass in this weather.”

For Hietikko, who leads the team with two goals and 15 shots, his start was different.

“I heard my friends Olli, Markus and Miko were coming to America to play soccer, so I decided I should give it a try,” he said. “I sent my tape to Coach Leese and he decided he wanted me.”

Hietikko sat out a year last year as a red shirt. He is now a team captain and offensive weapon.

Laitinen, a transfer student from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, said the process of dealing with a language barrier coming from his homeland was a challenge.

“At first it was challenging. It took a good two to three months to have good communication with people and understand them. It took almost a whole

year to understand things with school. I put a lot of hours and time to make the most out of school,” Laitinen said. “I think the most common thing that the whole country has here, from North Carolina to down here in Edinburg, people are really open. The culture back home, people are not that open or like to have that kind of small talk. That was the biggest difference for me that I had to adapt to, but I think it’s gone quite well.”

The Finnish Vaqueros tie together a close-knit group of guys who are working to achieve the same goal, winning soccer matches. Vaarakallio, whose favorite thing about life in the Rio Grande Valley is food, said he can count on his

teammates to be there for him.

“During our day-to-day activities, we’re great together. It doesn’t show that some of us are from Finland, some are from New Zealand, but we’re just one team,” Vaarakallio said. “It’s great to have people from similar backgrounds though, so we can offer support to each other. When we’re culture shocked, we can just look at each other and be like, ‘That’s crazy, right?’”

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