

LNG reps address concerns

Answer questions during panel discussion

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Representatives from three liquefied natural gas companies answered questions about the environmental and economic impact their proposed projects will have during a public affairs luncheon hosted by the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce.

“Great questions,” Mitchell Walk, commercial manager for Annova LNG, said about the panel discussion, held last Tuesday in the Brownsville Event Center. “I think it gave each project the opportunity to explain why it’s going to be good for Brownsville and for the greater South Texas region. It gave people who maybe didn’t know everything they wanted to know already about LNG a chance to ask some questions and, hopefully, get some answers to what they had questions about.”

Joining Walk in the panel discussion were Kathleen Eisbrenner, founder, chairman and chief executive officer of NextDecade LLC, who represented Rio Grande LNG, and David Glessner, permitting general manager of Texas LNG.

See LNG, Page 10

Into the unknown



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Biology senior Robert Alvarado crawls under a sign holder in the Blindfold Obstacle Course. The event was part of the Accessibility Information Fair held last Wednesday on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville. Story, Page 3.

More speak out against campus carry law



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER PHOTOS

UTRGV Chief Legal Officer Karen Adams responds to faculty questions and concerns last Wednesday during the Campus Carry Town Hall meeting on the UTRGV Harlingen campus.

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Sadie Hernandez, a political science junior at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, said she opposes allowing guns on Texas campuses amid the recurring school shootings across the nation.

“People that I know are all attending the Campus Carry [Town Hall] meeting,” Hernandez said last Thursday. “Everyone that I know is opposing it because it’s an infringement on our First Amendment right of freedom of speech. Having a threat of a concealed weapon and not knowing how someone is going to react to your freedom of speech infringes on your personal liberties.”

Political Science Assistant Professor Michelle Keck said she is going to attend Thursday’s meeting, which is scheduled from noon to 1 p.m. in the Student



Luke Donahue, a UTRGV literature and cultural studies professor, asks about classroom safety. Donahue was one of seven people who spoke on the campus carry issue.

Union’s Gran Salón in Brownsville.

“I want to see what are going to be the ramifications,” Keck said. “I have concerns about differences in opinion

leading to escalations between professor and student, student versus student. As a professor, if there’s a problem with the student, are they going to be able to come

See editorial cartoon, Page 4

into the office and pull out a weapon?”

Keck said her main concern is the ease of accessibility a person will have to their gun, not necessarily to use it but to have it as a threat.

Ben Reyna, associate vice president of security and campus affairs for UTRGV, said he wants to see more students attend the town hall meetings this week.

“We have a better understanding of what to expect,” Reyna said. “We

See TOWNHALL, Page 2

Town Hall Meetings Schedule	
9 to 10 a.m. Wednesday	Edinburg Campus - Student Union Theatre, 1.102
Noon to 1 p.m. Thursday	Brownsville Campus - Student Union, El Gran Salón
9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Oct. 28	Brownsville Campus - Student Union, El Gran Salón
Noon to 1 p.m. Oct. 29	Edinburg Campus - Student Union Theatre, 1.102

MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

A tradition of madness

Basketball premiere night this Friday

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

Friday evening, the UTRGV Fieldhouse will open its doors to the student body for a tradition that merges social interaction and athletics, specifically basketball.

Midnight Madness is an event created to give the student population an opportunity to meet the basketball team. However, the night is not just restricted to the players being introduced. Before everyone files into the gym, there are a few hours of festivities in the parking lot for fan enjoyment.

This year, there is an air of freshness leading up to the event. You can't say it's an annual event just yet because this time around, it's UTRGV's first rodeo.

Outside in the parking lot from 6 to 9 p.m. activities will include a tailgate party. The cookout will include a fajita and wing contest among organizations.

A "Burning of the V" will also take place in the parking lot, all happening before the action moves indoors near 9 p.m.

Despite all the fun and festivities surrounding the Fieldhouse, the epicenter remains Vaquero hoops. The premiere of both men's and women's basketball teams is the night's showcase.

Men's basketball is coached by Dan Hipsher for the third season, the first as UTRGV. Not only will the name, colors and court be new but also nine players on the roster. Seven of the nine newcomers are transfer students who have joined the team already with college experience in previous seasons.

Everett Osborne, a 6-foot-4-inch guard, is among a group of players who are transfer students but also are returning to the team under the same head coach



PHOTO COURTESY OFFICE OF STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

Phi Iota Alpha member Mario Garcia grills meat during last year's Midnight Madness tailgate party.

and hope to improve on the 10-21 season from a year ago. Osborne played in 31 games last year and averaged 4.7 points in his appearances.

"It's been us in the gym with each other for weeks and we play the city, we play for ourselves," the student-athlete from Los Angeles said. "So, it will be a great opportunity to display and showcase what we've been working on, the new talent that we have and just show everybody a good time.

"I think everyone will be able to notice it right off the bat. Off of just seeing the lineup, the people, seeing the height, seeing the maturity on the team on

Midnight Madness, I think it will be a great opportunity."

Osborne directed the attention to the team's performance when the UTRGV schedule begins.

Asked how they keep the energy and excitement in the Fieldhouse on Midnight Madness through the start of the season, he replied: "Once they see us, I think they'll be excited. ... Once we start winning and get the ball rolling, I think everyone will get on the bandwagon."

Sharyland graduate Joaquin Pistokache said Midnight Madness is something the team worked and looked forward to.

"That's something we've been working towards being able to get better as a team and put on a great show for the crowd," said the redshirt junior, who played a season at Roberts Wesleyan College. "It's a new school name, new mascot, new group of guys. The mentality is different and, hopefully, we can turn it around this season."

He echoed the thought that winning is the goal right out of the gates.

"That's what we want," Pistokache said. "We ultimately want to win and we want people to come and watch us win."

The excitement is not just limited to student-athletes, junior dance team member Yajaira Lopez is ready for a packed house.

"Basketball is the time where people show more school spirit than usual," the dance education major said. "This is our very first year as UTRGV and there is a lot of new faces, from the spirit program to the teams themselves. It is something that many are eager to experience. It is always great to cheer on our student-athletes and get our crowd involved with everything we do."

Lopez recognizes this event as a big deal for school pride and union between students, student-athletes and staff.

"Midnight Madness is when we get our biggest crowd and performing is always exciting," the 20-year-old said. "Seeing all the community come together is great."

The women's team is looking to build on its most successful year yet from a season ago.

Nineteen wins by the team was the most in legacy institution UT Pan American's

See MADNESS, Page 10

'Coping and resilience'

Campus puts spotlight on accessibility awareness

Monica Gudiño
THE RIDER

Lectures, exhibits and workshops focusing on accessibility continue through the end of the month on both UTRGV campuses.

"A good reason to think about Accessibility Awareness Month is that two out of seven families have someone with a disability in the family," said Steve Wilder, assistant director of Disability Services. "So, this is not a small matter which is just limited to a handful of people in the population."

This week, dogs used in therapy will visit the Brownsville campus from noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Main Building's courtyard. Inclusive Recreation will follow from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Wellness and Recreation Sports Complex on the Edinburg campus.

"There are a lot of people with disabilities and even if the students themselves don't have a disability they probably know somebody who does," Wilder said. "[Students should] be aware of the services that are available."

Sandra Rubio, a counseling specialist at Student Health Services, will lecture on "Coping and Resilience" from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. Thursday in Cortez Hall 118 on the Brownsville campus.

Rubio wants students to realize "that there is hope in spite of trauma that happens in our life, or stressors in our life."

"There's techniques that we can learn to make sure that we can bounce back from whatever happened," she said.



ANDREA TORRES/THE RIDER

English junior Tania Martinez pets Jasper, a cocker spaniel that serves as a therapy dog, during last Wednesday's Accessibility Information Fair on the Edinburg campus. Looking on are English senior Sarai Zamorano (left) and kinesiology graduate student Summer De Luna, of the Animal Therapy Club.

A Student Veteran Claims workshop will take place from 10 a.m. to noon Oct. 26 in Salón Cassia in Brownsville and from noon to 1 p.m. in the Bronc room in Edinburg.

Maria Alejandra Mazariegos will present a lecture titled "How to Promote a Healthy Sexual Response Cycle" from 11 a.m. to noon Oct. 28 in Salón Cassia. There will also be a Student Veteran

Panel from noon to 1 p.m. in the Bronc room.

Accessibility Awareness Month events are sponsored by Student Accessibility Services, the Dean of Students, Student Involvement and the Student Government Association.

For more information, call Student Accessibility Services in Edinburg at 665-7005 and in Brownsville at 882-7372.

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The real loser of Tuesday's debate: the GOP

Jacqueline Arias
THE RIDER



Remove how well-scripted Hillary Clinton was, or how the candidates “lacked diversity.” Instead, focus on the drastic difference between the Democratic and the Republican presidential debates. There was no name-calling, petty fights or male bravado in Tuesday night’s debate, unlike the Republican debates. The Democratic candidates answered tough questions on policy and the pressing issues that America faces today, and that’s precisely why the real loser is the Republican Party.

By no means was it the Lincoln-Douglas debate of 1858, yet this debate captured perfectly what’s wrong with the Republican Party today. The two GOP debates were purely entertainment without discussing issues in-depth. Instead, the candidates were asked senseless questions such as “What would be your Secret Service code name?” Similarly, they avoided their actual stance on issues by squirming around topics like climate change, income inequality or the minimum wage.

Sure, much of the blame could be on the moderators’ lack of worthier questions, but that does not justify the Republican candidates not engaging in policy discussion. On the contrary, they took the less complex route by bickering and pointing fingers. This simple difference is what made the Democratic debate compelling.

In the Democratic debate, topics ranged from climate change, equity pay for women, institutional racism, the Middle East, student debt and immigration, to name a few. These are all issues that millenials are most in favor and concerned about, according to a Pew Research Center survey. Why should this matter? Millennials consist of a quarter of the U.S. population, outnumbering Baby Boomers, according to the Census Bureau. They are also the most ethnically diverse generation and widely considered a more progressive generation.

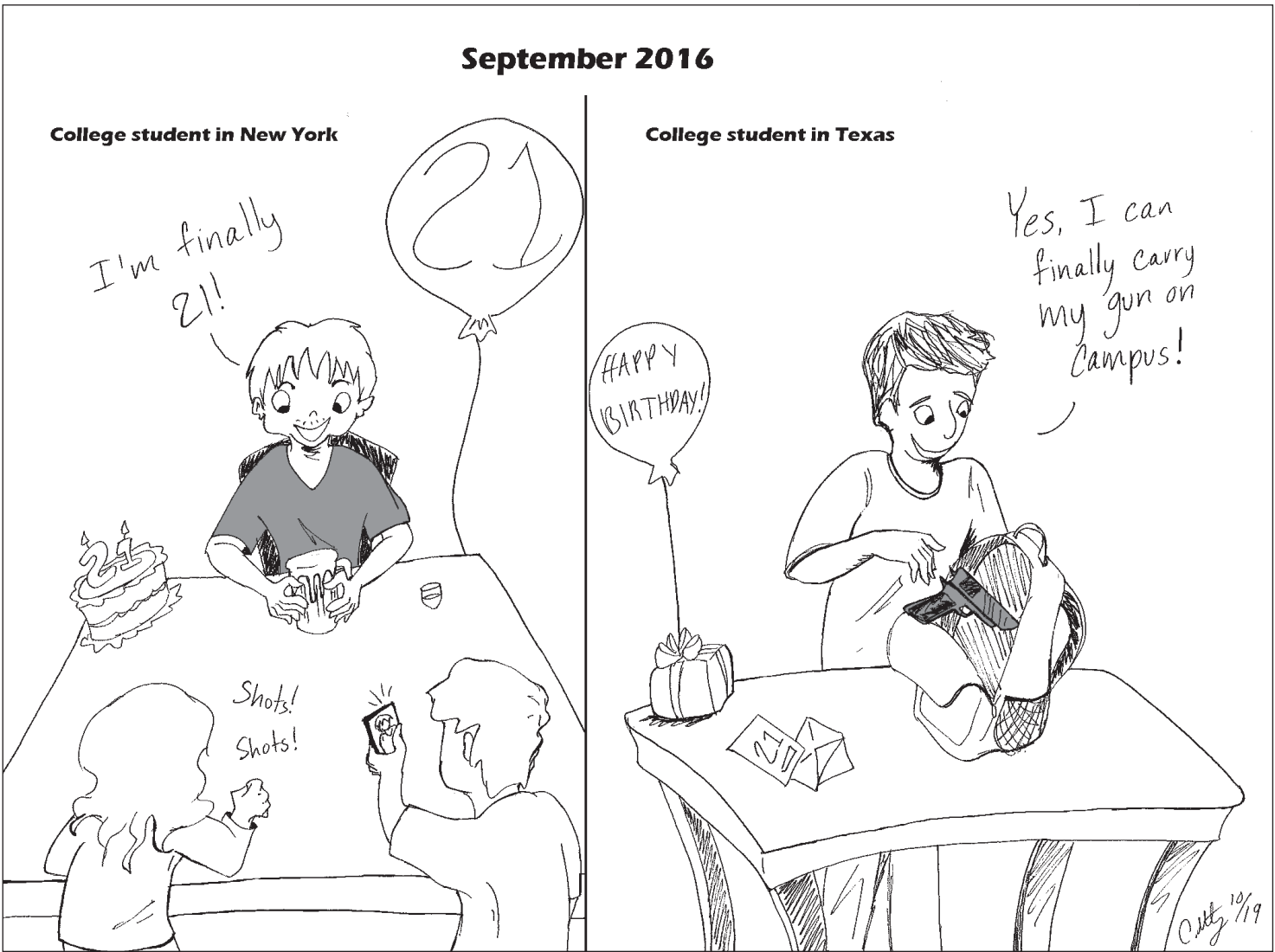
The Republicans ultimately lost in Tuesday’s debate by refusing to engage or accept these progressive views. In sharp contrast with the Democratic debate, all we have seen from them is childish posturing and extreme conservative stances that do not align with today’s generations.

So, the next time you hear the intensity in Bernie Sanders’ voice, ask yourself, “Do the Democratic candidates have more to offer than the xenophobic rhetoric the GOP proposes?”

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Campus Q & A

How do you get around campus? What improvements would you like?

--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza and Lesley Robles



Cristina Rivas
Undeclared freshman

“I just get around campus on my bike. Maybe some improvements that I would like is a certain area on the sidewalk that would be specifically for bikes so we wouldn’t crash into people or something.”



Erick Palacios
Biomedical sciences sophomore

“I call it a two-wheel balance [board] because that’s how I found it online. I wouldn’t recommend riding it during the rain or in the [Vaquero] trail because it’s kind of rocky, so people will freak out when I’m on it.”



John Corona
Nursing senior

“Well, you see, I normally get around walking. Sometimes if I’m late, I run. [Improvements], not so much construction going around. Being able to, I guess, walk on the sidewalks.”



Samantha Villanueva
Nursing junior

“I use a bike to get around campus. I would think a separate bike trail would be good. I don’t take the [Vaquero] trail. I have to go all around campus to avoid the crowd of people coming out of class and that’s difficult when the classes are far away. Getting a separate bike lane would be good.”

More than a best friend

Presentation informs attendees on animal therapy and human health

Andrea Torres
THE RIDER

After being told her daughter would never walk again, Megan’s mother was surprised to see her take 10 steps toward Murphy, a therapeutic dog designated to help her.

“After 10 steps Murphy sat down,” said Denise Silcox, a clinical assistant professor from the UT Rio Grande Valley School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling. “And Megan looked at the therapist and said, ‘I’m tired too’ and sat down. Nobody told the dog to do that; it was instinctual.”

The story of Megan and Murphy was one Silcox related during a presentation on animals and human health last Wednesday on the Edinburg campus as part of the university’s observance of Accessibility Awareness Month.

“They provide companionship, pleasurable activities, exercise, unconditional love, right, something to care for,” she said about animals. “They can be a partner. They group in to reduce loneliness, significantly lower blood pressure.”

Service animals can be trained to perform activities that will benefit a person with disabilities, yet they are not required to go through specific trainings, according to the American Psychological Association, Silcox said.

“They don’t have to go through a program,” she said. “They don’t have to pass any kind of certification test and, again, they did the law that way because who is going to do the certification? People that know about dogs may not know about disability and people who



ANDREA TORRES/THE RIDER

Donny, a registered therapy dog, greets Denise Silcox, a UTRGV clinical professor in the School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling, last Wednesday in the Bronc room on the Edinburg campus.

know disability may not know anything about dogs.”

There are state laws that make it a criminal offense to deny access to a service dog, also known as white cane rules, Silcox said.

“We have two in Texas,” she said. “We have the Human Resource Code 121,

which makes it illegal to touch a service dog in an intent to get it out.”

The other was passed in 2013 when then Texas Gov. Rick Perry signed the Veterans and Bootz’s law, which requires public facilities and transportation carriers to admit a person with a disability accompanied by a service dog

for assistance and also to admit a trainer of service dogs accompanied by a dog for training purposes, according to the Office of the Governor website.

“Bootz was a rat terrier who was a service dog for a veteran with [post-traumatic stress disorder],” Silcox said. See ANIMALS, Page 10

All-inclusive health care

Available services for the LGBT community

Andy De Llano
THE RIDER

As part of Accessibility Awareness Month, UTRGV hosted a variety of events, including a presentation on LGBT care, which took place last Wednesday in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Center on the Edinburg campus.

Harlingen psychologist Ebony Butler, who works with the Veterans Affairs Texas Valley Coastal Bend Health Care System, spoke about the limited access to health care many individuals in the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community have faced in the past.

In partnership with the National LGBT Health Education Center, a program of the Fenway Institute, Butler presented students with data collected on several mental and health issues that have adversely affected people in the LGBT community due, in part, to discriminatory behavior or the harsh circumstances many in the community would and still face.

As an employee of Veterans Affairs, Butler noted past policies many veterans had to face while enlisted in the military. The “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy heavily punished any homosexual behavior and led many individuals to either tightly control their behavior or be dishonorably discharged from the Army with no health benefits once they had left.

These days, Butler told students, the VA has changed its policy to “Do Ask, Do Tell!”

“The VA prides itself in being all-inclusive,” the LGBT coordinator said. “We don’t want to be hypocrites by allowing outdated policies to remain in effect.”

The main topic of the session was introducing students to the 10 ways they and faculty can work toward creating an “inclusive and affirmative health care environment for LGBT people” as cited in a PowerPoint presentation compiled

by Harvey J. Makadon, of the Fenway Institute.

The Fenway Institute is a research organization in Boston that aims to increase the overall availability of health care for the LGBT community. The VA Texas Valley Coastal Bend Health Care System has partnered with the institute in an attempt to bring that goal to the Valley as well. Organizations that specifically tend to the needs of the LGBT community are severely limited in our region, Butler noted.

“How can we change this?” the psychologist asked. “Let us start a group. ... Let us meet and see what the problems are.”

Another issue she highlighted during the presentation was the heavy resistance seen in South Texas in providing health care for transgendered individuals.

“There is a national mandate that we provide for transgender care and it is often ignored,” Butler said. “If we can understand what it takes to build an all-inclusive environment, we should work for it.”

The psychologist urged students and staff alike to push for advocacy and talk to the administration about implementing friendly policies that would make it easier for LGBT individuals to be properly informed of all the newly formed policies designed to help them.

“It’s hard for people to access care or even be educated about it because it’s something we don’t talk about,” Butler said at the end of her presentation. “Some ways we at the VA help out is by asking those questions.”

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Obstacle challenge



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

UTRGV Counseling Specialist Maria Alejandra Mazariegos guides biology sophomore David Barrera through the Blindfold Obstacle Course last Wednesday on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville. The course, set up by the Counseling and Psychological Services department, allowed students to temporarily experience life with a disability during the Accessibility Information Fair.



ANDREA TORRES/THE RIDER

Mechanical engineering junior Julio Garza walks blindfolded through an obstacle course on the Edinburg campus while balancing a plastic easter egg on a spoon. Guiding Mendoza is Andrew Diaz, UREC outdoor recreation coordinator.

Rehab Services courses extended to Brownsville campus

Academic program hosts information session

Rick R. Ramirez
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

UTRGV's School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling will offer four courses next spring in Brownsville.

Representatives of the academic program conducted an information session last Tuesday in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus.

The School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling offered an introductory course in Brownsville for the first time this semester, in which 30 students enrolled. For more than 15 years, the program offered coursework in Edinburg as part of legacy school University of Texas Pan American.

"I want students to understand that a graduate in our field can work in a variety of settings including substance abuse and mental health [facilities]," said Antonio Aguirre Jr., a clinical assistant professor in the program.

The four courses to be offered in Spring 2015 do not require prerequisites and will satisfy requirements of the rehabilitation services undergraduate major. They are Intro to Rehabilitation, Intro to Addictions Studies, Psychology of Disability and Special Topics (Case 2).

This undergraduate program will offer one general degree plan with three available tracks for students to choose from.

UTRGV's Student Accessibility Services office and the School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling partnered to spread awareness of current services and programs offered to students Valleywide as part of the university's observance of Accessibility Awareness Month.

"We definitely wanted to collaborate with the Student Accessibility office and increase awareness about our [academic]



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Biomedical sciences junior Edna Rivero looks at an information sheet given to her promoting rehab services courses to be offered in Brownsville next spring semester. The information session took place last Tuesday in the Main Building's Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus. Also shown are Steven Wilder (left), assistant director of Student Accessibility Services, and Antonio Aguirre Jr., a clinical assistant professor in the School of Rehabilitative Services and Counseling.

program," Aguirre said. "We offer a great career in rehab services and working with people with disabilities."

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U Central inauguration



CLARISSA MARTINEZ/THE RIDER

Biomedical sciences junior Florentino Saenz (fourth from left) and political science senior Denisse Molina Castro prepare to cut the ribbon that officially opened U Central Oct. 12 at The Tower on the Brownsville campus. Shown with them are Associate Comptroller for Treasury Operations Sara Gonzalez, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Martin Baylor, Vice President for Operations and Chief of Staff Janna Arney, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Havidán Rodríguez, UT Rio Grande Valley President Guy Bailey and Associate Vice President for Student Enrollment Magdalena Hinojosa.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Members of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering club include (front row, from left) Angelica Cortez, Jackelyn Llanas and Danelly Castillo. Back row: President Ernesto Hernandez, Ernesto Castillo and Webmaster Norberto Lara.

Name: Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
Purpose: “The purpose shall be the dissemination of knowledge of the theory and practice of all aspects of electrical engineering, electronics, radio, allied branches of engineering or the related arts and sciences, as well as the furtherance of the professional development of the students.”
President: Ernesto Hernández
Vice President: Israel Vásquez

Secretary: Pedro Ramos
Webmaster: Norberto Lara
Activities: Conferences, research presentations, job fairs, STEM Expo
Meetings: To be announced in Edinburg and Brownsville
Requirements: \$15 membership available at IEEE.org.
For more information, email: Hernández at ernesto.h.1992@IEEE.org

--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza

Protein mutation discussion



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Biomedical sciences senior Rolando Hernandez talks about the technological advances in computing power used to virtually predict possible protein mutations. Two other speakers at the Monday Night Science Cafe spoke about music and global armed conflicts Oct. 12 at El Hueso de Fraile in downtown Brownsville.

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Into the swing of things

Fall golf in thick of competition



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

UTRGV freshman golfer Mariano Romero putts during practice last Thursday at McAllen Country Club.

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

The college golf season is unique in that the tournament schedule spans both semesters. This fall season, both Vaquero clubs have competed in tournaments held in September and this month.

Head Coaches Risë Alexander for the women’s team and Philip Tate on the men’s side say the fall season can shape the team’s identity and build confidence for the spring.

MEN

The men’s golf roster is an example of change and continuity. Two freshmen, Pedro Lamadrid and Andres Gonzalez, join UTRGV from Mexico, while Spanish native and junior Castro Gomez-Ruiz joins as a transfer student from Texas Western College.

Another addition to the team is Tate, who is now in charge after being hired in September. The former St. Thomas University coach played college golf at Big-12 member institution, Texas Tech University.

The rest of the 10-man roster are veteran players from legacy institution University of Texas Pan American, including defending WAC champion Nicolas Platret.

Coach Tate hopes the fall season will expose the team to different environments and experiences. So far, the group has been on trips to Illinois, Wisconsin and New Mexico.

“We need to get out of our comfort zone,” said Tate, the Texas Tech four-year letterman. “The national championship is held in different places each year and the only way to be ready for anything is to travel around and play under different conditions.”

The most successful result of the season so far came at the Houston Baptist

University Husky Intercollegiate, where the team’s three-round score of 873 was good for second place overall. Newcomer Gonzalez led the team with a fourth-place finish and combined score of 214.

Coach Tate said the early positive result can go a long way.

“The guys are talented and the confirmation early in the year will be a motivator,” he said. “A lot of hard work with no payoff can take its toll. This should encourage us to work hard because we enjoyed the way that result felt.”

WOMEN

The women’s roster is four players smaller, with six golfers making up the team. If the men’s team is an example of change and continuity, the women’s team is an example of almost complete change.

Junior Kelsey Canales of Corpus Christi is the only player that came from UTPA. Junior Geraldine Torrellas is a transfer student from South Mountain Community College in her hometown of Phoenix.

The rest of the team is made up of four newcomers, three freshmen--Daniela Mendez, Emma Mesta and Michelle Moroles--and sophomore transfer Jessica Young, who was not part of athletics at her previous institution.

Risë Alexander, who served last season as the UTPA head coach and is in her 26th year overall in college golf, brings her experience to a young team. A year ago, she helped many golfers shoot career-best rounds.

The women’s fall schedule ends Tuesday at the Blue Raider Invitational in Murfreesboro, Tenn. The team will make its first in-state appearance in February at the Texas State Invitational in San Marcos.

Coach Alexander explained the benefits of traveling to tournaments across the country.

“It is imperative for this program to experience all types of courses and grasses

in order to compete at a high level,” she said. “This past week at Tacoma [Washington] gave them a great look at what rye grass and poa annua greens feel and look like. They will need to recall those memories this coming spring when we compete again in the Pacific Northwest at the WAC Conference Championship. Playing at different venues gives them experiences to draw from in future events.”

Morales, a Sharyland High School graduate, has led the team in two of its three events and the youth movement is evident.

In the last tournament in Tacoma, Wash, another freshman, Emma Testa, led the team with a total score of 243, one stroke lower than Morales’ three-day score of 244.

Coach Alexander notes that growing in experience is paramount at this point.

“Experience is a great teacher if you are willing to look at the experience and learn from it. Improvement is relative, however,” she said. “Realistically, they have so much to learn about course management and strategy that I understand this won’t happen overnight. The commitments they make are not to results, but to hard work and discipline, which will improve their mental and physical games.”

The head coach said the fall season can be valuable in the coming months.

“The fall season gives us a lot of information statistically that we can utilize to determine what we need to focus on in the offseason,” Alexander said. “Other than statistics, though, I know our biggest challenge is building mental toughness in this group of young players. The culture we want to build develops that sense of mental toughness as well as teamwork.”

Onward

With a men’s team of veteran players and a young coach and a women’s team of young players and a veteran coach, both teams hope the mix yields impressive results this season.

After the final tournaments of the fall this month, golf will break until February when the stakes are raised and all eyes point to the WAC tournament in Blaine, Wash.

Home Game

Saturday, Oct. 24

**Volleyball vs.
New Mexico State**

Noon

**UTRGV
Fieldhouse**

MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

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Athlete of the Week



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Name: Jose Juan Wells
Classification: Senior
Major: Criminal justice
Sport: Cross-country
Hometown: Cottonwood, Ariz.
Who is your favorite athlete?

“My favorite athlete would be Floyd Mayweather Jr.” *Mayweather is an American professional boxer, widely recognized as the best of his generation.*

What is the best advice you’ve ever been given and by whom? “The best advice I’ve been given is from my martial arts instructor. The advice that I was given is, ‘Even if you get hit, just get back up again.’”

What do you like to do for fun? “I like to go practice martial arts or watch movies. I like tae kwon do and jiu-jitsu.”

When did you begin running for cross-country? “I started running in my freshman year of high school, all the way up to now.”

Did you receive any running awards in high school? “Yes, I got athlete of the month and I got a state title in the mile, 2-mile, 4x100.”

What are your goals for the season? “My goals are to make the team stronger, communicationwise and spiritually wise, and unitywise, too. I believe all those practices are important so we can all do well.”

What is your favorite movie? “Jet Lee’s ‘Fearless.’”

Is there a song that gets your head in the game? “Yes, one of my favorite songs is by Nelly, and it’s called ‘The Champ.’”

What are your plans for the Fall 2015 semester? “I would like to get a higher GPA ... than I did last semester. Strive to make it a good semester.”

How do you feel about being part of the first UTRGV Men’s Cross-Country Team? “It’s hard to describe, but it feels like it’s a new beginning, it’s a new title. It’s just a new mentality that we are no longer lingering to that UTPA name. It feels like the old reputation just cleared out and we just come out new.”
--Compiled by Lesley Robles

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LNG

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rio Grande LNG is a proposed natural gas liquefaction and liquefied natural gas export facility. Rio Grande LNG is being developed and managed by NextDecade LLC.

Texas LNG is an independent LNG export project with plans to be located in the Port of Brownsville and produce 2 MTA (million tonnes per annum) of LNG beginning in 2020.

Annova LNG, an Exelon Generation company, is exploring the development of a mid-scale natural gas liquefaction and transfer facility at the Port of Brownsville.

All three projects would be located along the Brownsville Ship Channel. The terminals will convert the natural gas to liquid that could be loaded on tanker ships for export.

Jude Benavides, an environmental sciences associate professor at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, served as the panel moderator.

“It was a great job by the Brownsville Chamber to have an opportunity for their members to ask questions that are important to them directly to the representatives of the three companies,” Benavides said after the event. “This is a heated debate and topic. ... There are people who are certainly opposed to LNG here in Brownsville and there are people who are strongly in favor.”

Benavides asked the panel what economic impact LNG export facilities would have.



JESUS SANCHEZ/THE RIDER

Mitchell Walk (right), commercial manager for Annova LNG, responds to a question about the economic impact liquefied natural gas export facilities would have during a public affairs luncheon hosted by the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce. Also shown (from left) are Jude Benavides, an environmental sciences associate professor at UTRGV and moderator of the event; Kathleen Eisbrenner, founder, chairman and chief executive officer of NextDecade LLC; and David Glessner, permitting general manager for Texas LNG.

“There will be an investment of about \$8 billion,” Eisbrenner replied. “It will take about 5,100 people and skilled jobs to construct over a period of about 6.7 years.”

Walk said the construction of the project would support an average of 675 on-site jobs over a four-year period. Once operational, the facility would employ about 165 workers at an average salary of about \$70,000 a year, according to the annovalng.com website.

Glessner said the number and types of jobs will depend on the location and project that will be worked on but that there would be a substantial number of jobs for the people in Cameron County.

leading the program. “Now one of our main goals is to fill the Fieldhouse up.”

The coach is ready to move forward from success with no signs of slowing down or a slump following last year’s impressive campaign.

“The thing I like to do as a program, I don’t like to rebuild, I like to reload,” Tidwell said. “And we’re going to reload with some really good players. Our recruiting class is going to be ranked in the top 60 in the country and we’re going

going to put into accessible databases.”

Kip Austin Hinton, a UTRGV bilingual and literacy studies professor, told Adams, “You said that we’re state employees, so state employees have access to that information.”

Adams replied: “Understand that state employees, there’s information that is made public by the virtue of the Public Information Act, but there are exclusions or exceptions on the Public Information Act as well. Generally speaking, [concealed handgun license] holders are excluded. That’s not public information.”

Donahue argued, “Neither is the different things,” Silcox said. “There is animal-assisted activities. This is just a casual meet-and-greet thing, volunteering at a nursing home [or] taking them into school so kids can read to them. There’s no treatment goal, real reason for a visit.”

Animal assisted therapy can also be part of an actual treatment process, she said.

“It is delivered by a health-care professional using their license,” Silcox added. “It’s designed to promote improvement.”

Psychology sophomore and rehabilitation services minor Venessa Lopez attended the event and said the session was helpful for students interested in studying rehabilitation as well as others who might not know about animal therapy.

“I think it’s very helpful, especially for those that are in the rehab major,” Lopez said. “Since it’s my minor, I think it will be very helpful for me to know, for people that I know that have disabilities and impairments.”

Therapy dogs will visit the Brownsville campus from noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Main Building courtyard.

Members of the audience were given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the LNG project.

“Once that gas is loaded on a ship and that ship heads out on that ship channel, we have folks that are concerned that it will close down the ship channel for an extended period of time and will have to evacuate to a three-mile radius,” said Roxane Guenzel, president of the South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce. “I’d like you to address that transport issue.”

“We’ve gotten ship channel transits,” Walk said. “It takes about an hour and a half for [a ship] to go from the Gulf of Mexico to our site. ... During that time, there will be no other ship or no other

to have some good players coming in.”

While players do come to the program as newcomers, junior Shawnte’ Goff remains a pivotal cog in the women’s machine.

Goff’s 13.5 points per game a year ago stood as fifth best PPG in the WAC. Last Wednesday at WAC media day, Goff was named onto the preseason first-team all-conference in the coaches and media polls.

The wait is almost over and all the gym

[grade-point average] or a student ID number, but we can have access to those.”

Neither Adams nor Reyna responded to the comment.

That is when Kruer asked what the university is going to do to make her feel safe.

Bailey said that the university’s main goal is to follow the law while maximizing the safety of the campus community.

“This is all new to us,” Bailey said at the end of last Wednesday’s meeting. “We’re trying to figure this out. Your ideas, suggestions or things, we’ll look

traffic allowed on the channel. ... There will be a security zone around the ship.”

In an interview with *The Rider*, Guenzel said the panel discussion was informative.

“My question was answered,” she said. “I feel the two-year process that they’re going through will address any safety or environmental concerns. I’m comfortable. Whatever [the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission] decides, let’s go with it.”

Benavides invited his environmental sciences students to the event.

“It was really informative,” said Cecilia Espinosa, an environmental sciences junior. “I definitely learned a lot about what LNG is and what they’re going to bring to the community.”

Espinosa said she has fewer concerns about the LNG project after hearing the representatives of the three companies and is optimistic about what it can bring to the Brownsville community.

Psychology junior Clarissa Gonzalez also attended the panel discussion and said she believes the LNG project will benefit Brownsville.

“A lot of issues that environmentalists are concerned with were addressed in this conference,” Gonzalez said. “I feel like a lot of questions that we might have had concerning the environment have, you know, definitely been addressed. ... LNG moving forward would probably be a good thing, economically speaking, considering that these companies are taking this sort of environmental precautions.”

work and practice will finally be put to the test when the teams begin play.

The men’s first game takes place against the University of Miami Nov. 13, with the home opener against Texas A&M-Kingsville Nov. 20.

The women start the season on the road as well with the Islander Classic tournament in Corpus Christi Nov. 13. The first home match comes against Concordia Nov. 16.

at and take seriously. We won’t know, for a little while, how this will exactly work its way out. ... We do understand legitimate concerns. It’s all new. None of us know exactly how this plays out. Our goal is really simple: We want to follow the law in ways that maximize safety of our campus.”

Campus and community members may send feedback and suggestions to campuscarry@utrgv.edu.

TOWNHALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

there is a way professors can know which students in their class have concealed handguns.

“Remembering that our faculty members are state employees as well and there are certain few locations for asking certain questions, no,” Adams replied. “We’re not encouraging our faculty members to ask the students, ‘Do you have a license?’ ... That information is generally not considered public information. It’s not something that we’re

ANIMALS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

“He was denied access in San Antonio and petitioned and they passed a law that they called [Veterans and] Bootz’s law.”

Offenses for those denying access to people with service dogs are punishable by fines of no more than \$300 and 30 hours of community service, according to the governor’s website.

Service animals are not commonly used, Silcox said.

“Less than half of a percent have service animals because they don’t know what a service animal can do,” she said. “This is probably the biggest reason.”

Lack of knowledge about the legal rights of service dogs, non-acceptance of service dogs in the community, lack of funding and negative attitudes by family members are some of the other reasons Silcox said people don’t use service animals.

Animal therapy can involve any type of species, not just dogs, and is used in patient care, rehabilitation and in speech, education and recreation therapy, she said.

“Even animal therapy splits into two

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UTRGV
Student Media

A new tradition

First Halloween festival

Ena Capucion

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The Halloween Town Festival will take place from noon to 2 a.m. Saturday and from noon to 8 p.m. Sunday at 1716 Hackberry Ave. in McAllen.

Event coordinator Margaret Rivera originally planned to host the festival at a smaller location fitting at most 280 people. Once the word got out, that number increased to 700 and then to several thousand potential attendees, according to the festival's Facebook page.

"It's a free event for the community and for all those Halloween enthusiasts," Rivera said. "We set the date a week before Halloween since people normally host other parties and such. It's just something fun to do to get ready for the real date."

Working alongside Rivera is Blanca Perez Treviño, who aims to encourage people of all ages to dress up in costumes throughout October.

"I have been very fortunate and have attended many different Halloween festivities across the state and it's so [exciting] to bring all the knowledge back to my hometown for our communities to enjoy," Treviño said.

As a sponsor, Treviño genuinely enjoys watching others celebrate in the spirit of Halloween.



"My personal experience has been amazing to see the talent of many [impersonating] their favorite character, whether it's extremely horrifying or extremely cute," she said.

The event will feature a variety of entertainment such as music performances, games as well as an area designated for artists and vendors.

Vendor coordinator Rene Rosas Jr. keeps in touch with possible vendors to present their products at the Halloween Town Festival.

"It's something I've wanted to do before, but never had a chance to," the 22-year-old said. "It's something that doesn't just cater to a certain age or demographic, it's for everyone, kids [and] teens. I just wanted to bring a Halloween event that could incorporate everyone's wants--to make something for the [Rio Grande Valley] that people can be proud of and enjoy doing each year."

The community will be able to participate in video and card games--hosted by Critical Hit and The Stronghold Games, respectively. About 14 vendors will sell handcrafted art, paintings and collectibles.

There will be a series of Halloween-themed activities, such as a movie trivia, photo area, haunted house as well as costume and cosplay contests for cash prizes.

AMA brings help from experts



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Arianna Ramirez (right), talent acquisition and staffing manager for the Brownsville Public Utilities Board, informs students about tips for résumés and interview preparation during the Experts Panel! Résumé & Interview presented by the UTRGV American Marketing Association Wednesday in the Main Building's Salón Cassia in Brownsville. Also shown are UTRGV AMA President Albert Garcia and Vice President Pamela Escobar.

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