

Forecast for the week:

FRIGHTFUL

Haunted houses, costume contests and much more



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

Students participate in a ball toss during last year's Halloween Havoc on the Brownsville campus. This year, Halloween Havoc is being replaced by Fright Fest, which is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday on the Casa Bella lawn in Brownsville.

Oscar Castillo
THE RIDER

The Office of Student Involvement will host a series of events on the Brownsville and Edinburg campuses as part of the Halloween at the Union weeklong celebration.

On the Brownsville campus, Residential Life will screen

two scary movies beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Casa Bella clubhouse.

At 8 a.m. Wednesday, a pumpkin carving contest will be held at the East Patio in Edinburg and on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville. Winners will receive V Bucks: first place, \$25; second place, \$20; and third place, \$15.

On Thursday, the Brownsville

campus will host Fright Fest at 6 p.m. on the Casa Bella lawn. Student organizations will sell food and host games such as Fear Factor. A haunted house will be set up in Buildings 5 and 6 in the student housing complex.

"We're going to have rides, we're going to have a [disc jockey], it's going to be fun." See HALLOWEEN, Page 2

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LCME grants preliminary accreditation

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Campus Carry

UTRGV hosts more town hall meetings

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The Rider is the official student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The newspaper is widely distributed on campus and off campus in Brownsville and Edinburg, Texas. Views presented are those of the writers and do not reflect those of the paper or university.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Graduation Fair

UTRGV will host a **Graduation Fair** on both campuses this week. Students may buy their cap and gown and other graduation needs. The fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. today and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Edinburg campus bookstore. In Brownsville, the fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday in the campus bookstore. For more information, call 665-2227 in Edinburg and 882-8249 in Brownsville.

Paddle Boarding and Kayaking

As part of **Fright Fest**, students are invited to **kayak** and **paddle board** from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Casa Bella pool on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call **UREC** at 882-7176.

Mascot Development Townhall

UTRGV will conduct a **town hall meeting** to discuss the look of the university mascot. It will take place from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus and from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Student Union Theater on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-2660 in Edinburg and 882-5111 in Brownsville.

IRB/CITI certification

The **Office of Engaged Scholarship & Learning** invites undergraduate students to attend its **IRB/CITI Certification workshop** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Academic Services Building 1.106 in Edinburg and Salón Cassia in Brownsville. Information about the **Institutional**

Review Board will be presented, such as what to include on a new study application, how the review process works and general suggestions about how to ensure that ethical guidelines are followed. Register online to attend the free event at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/finding-a-faculty-mentor-tickets-18832348060>. For more information, call 665-3461 in Edinburg and 882-4300 in Brownsville.

Small business training series

“Building Your Online Presence!” a small business seminar presented by **Jeanette Greider**, of AIM Media Texas, will take place from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday in the Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce, located at 311 E. Tyler Ave. For more information, call 423-5440.

--Compiled by Monica Gudiño



POLICE REPORTS



The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Oct. 12 and 16.

October 12

2:09 p.m.: A student reported that she never received a \$2,468.99 check from UTRGV in a post office box rented by a family member. UTRGV staff reported that the check was cashed. The student later filed an affidavit of unauthorized endorsement or altered item.

3:18 p.m.: An ambulance transported a student to Edinburg Regional Hospital after he complained of chest pains, which he had been experiencing for the last four weeks.

3:18 p.m.: Two student driven vehicles reversed from a parking space at the same time and crashed in lot C on the Edinburg campus. No injuries were reported and both vehicles sustained minor damage.

9:51 p.m.: University Police responded to a vehicle crash involving a pregnant UTRGV student on University Boulevard in Brownsville. The pregnant driver was taken to a medical facility for further evaluation.

October 13

11 a.m.: A student driving a Ford

Mustang accidentally backed into a Dodge Grand Caravan driven by another student in lot M2 on the Edinburg campus. Both vehicles sustained minor damage.

2:16 p.m.: A student driving a Jeep Liberty backed into a Mazda in lot N2 on the Edinburg campus.

4:41 p.m.: A student reported she was assaulted by another student as she was leaving class. She also said the same student showed up at her apartment and banged on her windows and front door at 3 a.m. Oct. 10. The student was told about the safe walk program and other services available to her. The suspect was scheduled to make a statement on Oct. 15.

October 14

12:58 a.m.: A driver who was stopped for texting while driving on the 2400 block of West Elisa Lane was cited for possession of an open container of alcohol.

1:32 a.m.: A driver who was stopped on the 800 block of North Russian Avenue for failing to signal a turn was arrested

after it was discovered there was a warrant for his arrest for unpaid fines to the City of Edinburg. The driver's vehicle was impounded.

11:48 a.m.: A student was transported to the South Texas Behavioral Health Center after she had recent thoughts of suicide.

October 15

4:34 p.m.: A faculty member accidentally backed into a student's vehicle in lot B2 on the Edinburg campus. Police issued a case number for insurance purposes.

7:30 p.m.: A male student walked into a restroom on the Edinburg campus and did not realize it was for women until he heard female voices. He waited in a stall until police arrived to clear up the issue.

October 16

2:12 a.m.: A driver who was stopped for speeding and failing to signal was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated on the 300 block of South Gastel Circle in Edinburg.

---Compiled by Andrea Torres

HALLOWEEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to be pretty cool,” Abraham Villarreal, program specialist for the Leadership and Mentoring office, said about Fright Fest. “It’s also open to the public and free of charge.”

The Zombie Bash takes place at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Edinburg Student Union.

“Since we are not having the Carnival of the Great Pumpkin this year, we

wanted to do something similar but in a smaller scale for students,” said Daniela Venegas, campus programming board adviser for Student Involvement. “We are doing a dance, haunted house and some games--that will happen in the union. It will be free for students.”

The final Halloween event is a costume contest that begins at 12:15 p.m. Friday at the Commons in Edinburg. Registration will take place from 11:30 a.m. to noon. The prize for first place is \$100 in V Bucks; second place, \$75; and third

place, \$50.

Freshman Cinthia Gonzalez plans to dress up as Castiel for Halloween. Castiel is an angel portrayed by actor Misha Collins in the hit TV show “Supernatural” on the CW Network.

“On Halloween I usually go get candy from neighbors, but I’d like to go with people here,” Gonzalez said about attending Fright Fest on Thursday.

For more information, call the Office of Student Involvement at 665-2266.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Name: Grupo Folklórico Tizatlán de UTRGV

Purpose: To preserve the regional dances of Mexico and promote its culture through the art of dance.

President: Ruben Chipuli

Vice President: Ilse Hernandez

Secretary: Emilia Pizaña

Treasurer: Ruben Chipuli

Adviser: Zelma Mata, associate professor in the Health and Human Performance Department.

Activities: Performances and folklórico workshops upon request

Meetings: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Garza Gym Annex in Brownsville

Membership requirements: No folklórico dance experience required, a positive attitude, discipline, dedication and enthusiasm.

For more information, contact: Chipuli at ruben.chipulio1@utrgv.edu or call 882-8290.

Visit the organization at <https://www.facebook.com/folkloricotizatlan> and at <https://utrgv.collegiatelink.net/>



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Members of Grupo Folklórico Tizatlán de UTRGV include (front row, from left) Co-Director Jesús López, Co-Director Santa Estrella, Director and Adviser Zelma Mata and Co-Director Julio Fuentes. Middle row: Adriana Hernández, Angela González, Lolis Flores and Daniela Martínez. Back row: Vice President Ilse Hernández, Damián Ruiz, José Rodríguez, President/Treasurer Rubén Chipuli and Lili Martínez.

organization/folkloricotizatlan

--Compiled by Monica Gudiño

Visit us at
utrgvrider.com

Horrificed for a good cause

University hosts first Halloween food drive and scary story event

Astrid Gonzalez
THE RIDER



Students in two Writing and Language Studies Department classes are

collaborating for UTRGV's first Zombie Walk Food Drive and Flash O'Wen Horror stories Thursday at the Quad on the Edinburg campus.

Lecturer Mary Ann Escamilla's 1302 English students were inspired by the Syfy post-apocalyptic TV series "Z Nation" to host the Zombie Food Drive Walk to fight food insecurity.

The food drive will benefit the UTRGV Food Bank, which is also affiliated with Feeding America and the Texas Food Bank Network, serving Hidalgo, Willacy and Cameron counties.

According to The Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley Inc., about 1 in 4 households undergo food insecurity and 1 in 2 children in the Rio Grande Valley live at or beneath poverty status. Feeding America states that 1 in 6 Americans face hunger, including the elderly, children and employed adults who can't make ends meet.

Registration will start at 12:15 p.m., and the event will run until 1:30 p.m. The cost to enter the event is two cans of food. No ramen, glass containers or expired foods will be accepted. The event will feature a costume contest, a zombie walk-off, a prize drawing and more.

Escamilla's students have created a page on Facebook called "Zombie Walk Food Drive" to promote the event and hunger awareness. Her students also created a YouTube video invitation for Keith Allan, who plays "Murphy" on "Z Nation." As of press time Thursday, Allan had not yet replied.

"The whole point of the food drive is to spread awareness of the hunger insecurity in the area and, you know, hopefully get information out to people about different things," Escamilla said. "We're also going to have posters of research that my students have done on the issue of hunger insecurity and also how the students are affected by it."

That same day, Lecturer Regine Pellicer's 1301 class will read "Flash O'Wen Horror Stories." The UTRGV Creative Program will also participate in the event by hosting an Open Mic for those who wish to read their horror stories.

Pellicer states why it's a good idea to get students involved outside the classroom.

"It's to help the students realize that they're active citizens," Pellicer said about the event. "Very often, students think that they come to class, they sit and listen to their teacher and that's about it, but going to college is more than that. We want them to have another experience, to understand that they have a place in society, so we try to actually change that ... to actually see that the students are writing something not for their teachers but for a real audience."

Campus community: Keep us safe

Astrid Gonzalez
and Andrea Torres
THE RIDER

Students and faculty on both campuses of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley are asking for more security when the campus carry law takes effect next August.

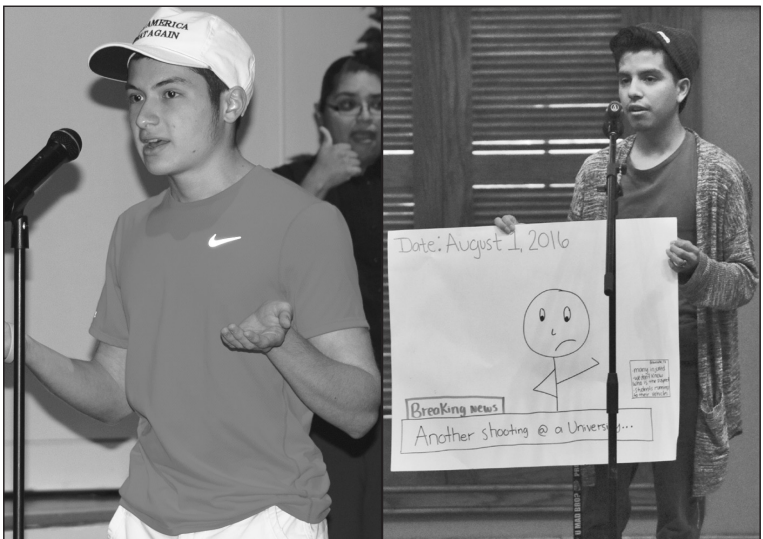
Nearly 100 campus community members attended two town hall meetings last week in Edinburg and Brownsville.

Before the Brownsville meeting started Thursday, about 180 students signed a petition against the carrying of guns on university campuses.

"We're a group of students, faculty and professors who are against this new law that will allow students, or just people, bringing guns on campus," said Adan Lozano, a Spanish graduate student. "I was explaining the movement 'Dogs Not Guns,' it's kind of like, it's a form of protest like the UT Austin [students] did."

UT Austin students started a movement two weeks ago in which they will carry a dildo to campus on the first day of school, Aug. 24, 2016, in protest of the concealed campus carry law, which takes effect Aug. 1, 2016.

"It says specifically in the rules that you can't bring your pets or sex toys on campus, but now you can guns?" Lozano said. "Like, why would I feel safer with guns around and not my dog? That's kind of like the point of this, to show we're not satisfied with this bill."



ANGELA CANTU / THE RIDER

MICHELLE ESPINOZA / THE RIDER

Zachary Saenz (left), a political science freshman, speaks in favor of the campus carry law last Wednesday at the town hall meeting in Edinburg. Juan Villela, a math education junior, displays his opposition to SB 11 during the Brownsville meeting last Thursday.

Hopefully, get the UT System attention and make something out of this."

The rules and policies created by institutions cannot prohibit the carrying of concealed handguns on the campuses.

Mark Kaswan, a political science assistant professor, spoke against the law during the Brownsville meeting.

"The fact that we're having to go through this conversation really makes me sad," Kaswan said. "It makes me sad because what it represents, I think, in a very direct and visceral way, is that the government of the state of Texas rules on a basis of a culture of fear. ... In other words, the government is not governing in a sense in terms of what is in the common interest,

what it is for the common welfare of people but on the basis of the kind of sense of fear."

Kaswan surveyed his students on the campus carry law.

"In the results, students overwhelmingly opposed the new law," he said. "Over 75 percent said that they do not think that people should be able carry guns on campus at all. Over 60 percent of the students expressed the concern that the presence of concealed weapons on campus would make a campus quote 'more dangerous' as opposed to quote 'safer.'"

Daniel Skaines, a management information systems in business administration senior and veteran, spoke in favor of Senate Bill 11.

'Road to 2020' continues

Nearly 1,500 medical school applications received, so far

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR IN CHIEF

As of last Thursday, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine had received 1,476 applications for its charter class after the Liaison Committee on Medical Education granted preliminary accreditation Oct. 15.

"If there is such thing as cloud nine, I think we're on cloud 27," School of Medicine Founding Dean Francisco Fernandez said about the LCME granting preliminary accreditation. "I don't think there's another place on this Earth that has had the good fortune that we've had and, you know, the LCME recognizing all of the opportunities that are here and the difference that we can make ... is just an incredible honor and privilege to be able to be, as [President Guy] Bailey says, 'One.'"

The approval from the LCME allows the UTRGV School of Medicine to implement its academic programs and curriculum.

Scheduled to open in Fall 2016, the medical school plans to enroll 50 students into its inaugural class.

"We were ready to roll thanks to the good work of the people of the Texas Medical and Dental



MARIO GONZALEZ / THE RIDER

The Regional Academic Health Center in Harlingen will be part of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine, which is scheduled to open in Fall 2016. The facilities in Edinburg are under construction.

Schools Application Service," Fernandez said. "They really set it up for us. They sent out an immediate email alert, an email blast, to all the students that were applying to medical schools."

Fernandez said between 200 and 300 applicants will be interviewed during the first week of November and finalists will be chosen shortly after.

"We're still receiving applications. The first week of November we will be, in essence, doing our first interviews," the dean said. "In Jan. 15, we have to submit our list of who the future class is going to be and then we wait until the big

computer in the sky makes the match."

The LCME granting preliminary accreditation is the latest step in the development of the UTRGV School of Medicine. Fernandez said the second site visit from the LCME will take place in 2017 and the final in 2019.

If provisional accreditation is granted, the LCME will conduct a full survey in the fourth year of the charter class to determine if the school will be granted full accreditation.

Fernandez said the medical school will be a distributed campus, similar to UTRGV. The Edinburg campus will

"Now, for concealed handguns on campus, a lot of people are just thinking, 'Well, we're living in fear' and 'Why do we need a gun' and that's the way they look at this policy," Skaines said. "On the contrary, I personally feel that we don't need this nanny state of, 'You know what, let the police handle everything.' If it's a crime, the police have their job but, you know, what if I'm going to a dark alley and there's no police around or one of these trails at [the Brownsville campus] when I got a 9 o'clock class, nine times out of 10 there's not going to be an officer there to hold my hand. If someone jumps out of a tree and stabs me, I'm probably going to die if I'm not able to defend myself. So, being able to defend myself is going to make me, personally, feel safe."

In the Edinburg meeting last Wednesday, Eugenio Treviño, a political science and communication major, suggested there be more security on campus.

"The reality is either with or without the campus carry law, shootings are always a possibility," Treviño said. "So, I feel maybe like a trained security guard, police officer, someone that is trained or someone totally dedicated to defuse these sort of situations ... maybe having one of those trained individuals in every building, if possible. If not, around in traffic areas. I think that would be a great idea."

Chief Legal Officer Karen

See TOWNHALL, Page 7

concentrate on classroom sessions.

The Regional Academic Health Center in Harlingen will be used by the medical school's "clinical faculty, the Center for Simulation, the Clinical Research Unit, our patient and medical library, and interprofessional education initiative," he said.

"And yes, while our curriculum is a longitudinal integrated experience, the bulk of the clinical experience, clinical skills verification and simulation-based training will be in [Harlingen]," Fernandez said.

A 15,000-square-foot Smart Hospital complex and a virtual anatomy and histology laboratory are under construction in Edinburg, according to the university's website.

"We are more than ready. We are awaiting that day that we open the doors and have the students walk in and start that first day of class," Fernandez said. "We've got the faculty, we've got the curriculum. The building is the only thing that's not ready but it should be ready sometime between January and February. So, we are on a roll and ready to go."

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The American shift

Ena Capucion

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR



Who are we? Who were we and what have we become? In less than 150 years, we as a society and nation have accomplished so much.

We are part of a country that created the world's first all electronic computer, referred to as the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer, or ENIAC in 1946. The ENIAC weighed a total of 30 tons and occupied a 50-foot-long basement. The computer was developed in secret as a World War II military project to calculate trajectories for firing tables. At its best, that was all the ENIAC could accomplish--mathematical computations at exceptional speeds. Granted, that says a lot during a world war. Looking back at it today, though, it doesn't at all compare to Apple's latest MacBook Air--a laptop available in 11-inch and 13-inch screens with fifth-generation intel core processors. Back then, several engineers and computer scientists had to run back and forth along the ENIAC using punch cards and flipping switches whereas the modern day struggle is getting up at your local Starbucks to find an outlet or perhaps your pinky doesn't reach the P key on your keyboard.

We are part of a country that legalized slavery and didn't *actually* consider all men equal until the 14th Amendment was passed in 1868. Now, more than 140 years later, America's first African-American President, Barack Obama, is nearing the end of his second term after being inaugurated in 2009.

We are part of a country where the American Psychiatric Association considered homosexuality to be a mental disorder in the late 1960s. The act itself could result in a small fine, 20 years in prison or a life sentence. In 1969, the New York City police raided Stonewall Inn, a popular Greenwich Village gay bar. After more than 50 years of discrimination, damnation and riots, the Supreme Court finally ruled 5-4 in favor of gay marriage on June 26, 2015.

We are part of a country that has undergone and will continue to undergo drastic changes. However, remnants of traditional mentalities such as homophobia and racism are still scattered throughout the Land of the Free. While this may remain true for some time, we are Millennials--a generation born between the early 1980s and early 2000s. Our generation will live to see the demographic shift in America from predominantly white to a minority-majority country. We will reap the benefits of the freedom we currently have and face the challenges to fight for more.

We are living through a transition. We are the transition.

Letter to the editor:

Where's the other side of the story?

In Volume 1, Issue 8 of *The Rider*, stories written about the LNG pipeline, campus carry and the Democratic presidential debate elicited a strong reaction within me. The main reaction eliciting inquiry is whether *The Rider* is interested in obtaining both sides or, indeed, multiple sides of a story.

In the article written about the LNG pipeline, only those in favor of it were quoted and referenced. This was a large, lost opportunity for *The Rider* to have interviewed Rebecca Moran, president of the Environmental Awareness Club, or philosophy Professor Eric Anderson, Ph.D., both of whom have very different views on the matter from those quoted



Campus Q & A

What are your thoughts about the campus carry law?

--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza and Lesley Robles



Fabian Rubio
Electrical engineering junior

"Well, what I think is I'm pro and against it, because it's good to have it, like, not inside the campus but like in the parking lots, because I remember a case where some girl got raped, or they were trying to rape [her], so somewhere around there would be good to carry guns. But inside the campus, I don't think so, because they're too many kids, like, a lot from the [Brownsville Early College] High School, so I don't think that would be a good idea."



Ashley Vasquez
Education sophomore

"I think it's not a good idea to have guns inside the classroom. It's better to have it, like, maybe in the car because we live by the border and maybe an accident could happen and it'd be safe having a gun."



Roslynn Goco
Biomedical sciences sophomore

"I think it's a good thing. It wouldn't leave other people as vulnerable if one person was able to bring a concealed gun when they weren't supposed to. So, if everybody is able to, at least they can protect themselves from somebody that did bring a gun illegally."



David Leal Jr.
International business freshman

"I am for it, basically, because everyone has a right to carry something, like I do I have a right, and of course it is good for protection, but I know that some people kind of take it to federal account and that's only because this university protects us. If it was federal we can't have open carry because it's the state's right. Other than that I am all right with it. They need a little bit more guns here."

and who are intensely qualified to comment on the subject. I may also add that they are very thoughtful individuals whose words would have deeply enriched the story. This is to say nothing of the protests and meetings both these great environmentalists have helped organize in opposition to the pipeline in our community.

The same could be said about campus carry: Only those against campus carry were quoted and/or referenced. Who are those in favor in leadership positions? I'm not sure. But the point of view (which is my own) that this debate illustrates, a Hegelian tragedy, can be considered. For our two most fundamental rights have come into conflict--the right to speak our minds without potential threat, and the right to defend our minds and bodies from potential threats. Is this contradiction likely to be resolved? As the butler Jeeves says in P.G. Wodehouse's

novel--the contingency is a remote one.

As for the [column] on the Democratic debate, the author writes that the Republican debate featured no discussion of serious policy issues, which is a falsehood. She then quotes one silly question asked to discredit the seriousness of the GOP debate: "What would your Secret Service code name be?" This was one out of the countless questions asked from a three-hour-long debate that involved discussion over bilateral negotiations with Russia, China, and Iran (my personal Axis of Evil), and global trade and commerce--things the author said matters to us Millennials. The author further fails to mention that both the GOP and Democratic debates referenced were hosted by the same network: CNN.

What is outrageous about the [column], I'm sorry to have to say, is it ends without a word of justification, by stating that

the Republican Party has a xenophobic agenda! This is a serious accusation and bold claim that cannot be left unjustified, even more so when it is the last sentence of the piece. I am not a Republican or conservative of any kind, but I respect intellectual and moral honesty, which, I'm also sorry to say, was absent in this [column].

May I also inquire as to what the publishing process is? Do the students employed by *The Rider* have final say or is this overseen by an "adviser?"

Jonathan Salinas
Psychology and philosophy
alumnus
Student Government Association
Senator at Large (2014-15)

More than an encore

Women’s basketball wants to build from success

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

Last season was a breakthrough year for women’s basketball.

In the final season as UT Pan American, the team’s 19 wins were the most in program history. Coach Larry Tidwell’s team appeared in the Western Athletic Conference championship game in Las Vegas and a 20th win on the campaign would have sent his players on their way to the NCAA tournament.

Despite a loss in the conference championship, the Broncs were invited to the Women’s Basketball Invitational, where a first-round loss to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette ended the historic season.

“We were very pleased with the way the year went, we enjoyed it,” said Tidwell, who is starting his third year at the helm of women’s basketball. “But, we got right back after it in the first week of April preparing for this year.”

Now all of the success of 2014-15 is in the rearview mirror and the only thing that can be extracted from last year is experience. Seven players return as Vaqueros after being a part of the run from a year ago. Those seven will be partly responsible for showing the ropes to the eight true freshmen added to the roster this year.

Tidwell stressed the importance of contributions from young players who are just coming on board.

“The success of our program will be determined a lot by how these freshmen handle certain situations,” said the coach, who has been in the college ranks since 1992. “We just wanna make sure that they’re ready to handle it when their time comes. They’ve got to be a contributing factor if we’re gonna try to win anything early, and as they gain more experience if we want to win anything late.”

Tidwell will look again for lots of offense from All-WAC guard Shawnte’ Goff. Her 13.5 PPG in conference play was fifth best in the conference. The junior from the central Texas city of Copperas Cove was already named to the preseason all-conference team. Goff looks to start for a third straight season and her leadership shows through attitude about success.

“We did have a postseason appearance in the WBI, but



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Micheline Mercelita guards Angela Villarreal during women’s basketball practice Thursday at the UTRGV Fieldhouse. The team, which finished runner-up in last season’s WAC tournament, opens its home season Nov. 16.

that wasn’t our ultimate goal,” the 5-foot-8-inch guard said. “The WAC coaches picked us fourth and that’s fine. We’re definitely used to being the underdogs. We’re just trying to win games, we’re not trying to prove anything to anybody. Everything is gonna be in our actions.”

Rickell Preston, the guard from Louisiana, is gearing up for her last season. The senior, whose first year was in 2012-13, said despite the emotions she’s playing the game like she always has.

“I’m nervous, I’m excited, I’m anxious,” Preston said. “But, at the same time, I feel like it’s a regular season and I’m going to go out there, play and do my best like I’ve done every year.”

Preston represents the only senior presence on a young team that will spend a lot of the time away from the Rio Grande Valley. She feels like this team is well-prepared for the challenge.

“Last year, we had a lot of pieces to the puzzle,” Preston said of the squad. “But now I feel like we are way more athletic; we have a lot of people that can score this year. We’re gonna work hard and compete and do everything possible. I feel like this year is gonna be a good year.”

The 2015-16 season is a noticeably road-heavy year. Eighteen of 19 games will happen away from the Fieldhouse. The road journeys will have the team

up against the likes of Texas Christian University, Oklahoma State University, Kansas State University and the University of Houston during nonconference.

“It’s not going to do anything but make us better,” Goff said of the tough schedule they have. “I recall a time last year against Texas Tech. We only lost by a few points, and Texas A&M only two points. That’s just proof that it’s more than OK. We go

in here and get experience, we go in there looking to win and make a statement.”

The Vaqueros’ first opportunity to begin making that statement comes against Eastern Carolina University in the Islanders Classic tournament Nov. 13 in Corpus Christi. Their home opener is a few days later on Nov. 16 against Concordia University.

Light the lamp!



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Gregory Koneri (left), a biomedical sciences sophomore, plays against Pedro Escalera, a communication sophomore, during the air hockey tournament last Tuesday in the Student Union Game Room.

Athlete of the Week



JACQUELINE ARIAS/THE RIDER

Name: Haley Durham
Classification: Senior
Major: Rehabilitation services
Sport: Volleyball
Position: Middle blocker
Hometown: Honolulu, Hawaii
Who is your favorite athlete? “Kerri Walsh.” *Walsh is an American professional beach volleyball player.*

Who is your role model? “My parents because they work so hard for what they do and they make anything work no matter what.”

What is the best advice you’ve ever been given and by whom? “My dad always tells me to just keep your head up and keep going no matter how much pain you’re in. Pain is only temporary. Success is at the end of the road.”

What do you like to do for fun? “Besides sleep, I just hang out with my friends and my dog.”

When did you begin playing volleyball and why did you start playing? “I began playing volleyball at the age of 13.”

Did you play in high school and did you get any awards? “All tournament teams and [Oahu Interscholastic Association] First Team Honor.”

What are your goals for the season? “My goals for the season right now is to finish out strong and to play hard no matter what.”

What is your favorite movie? “Shrek.”

Is there a song that gets your head in the game? “Not particularly.”

What are your plans for the Fall 2015 semester? “To graduate. I graduate this semester.”

How do you feel about being part of the first UTRGV Women’s Volleyball Team? “It feels like an honor. To start off being the first team and get things rolling.”

--Compiled by Jacqueline Arias

Visit us online at utrgvrider.com

Home Games



Friday, Oct. 30

**Men's Soccer vs.
San Jose St. University**

7 p.m.

**UTRGV Soccer and
Track & Field Complex**

Saturday, Oct. 31

**Womens Soccer vs.
New Mexico St. University**

7 p.m.

**UTRGV Soccer and
Track & Field Complex**

Sunday, Nov. 1

**Men's Soccer vs.
CSU Bakersfield**

1 p.m.

**UTRGV Soccer and
Track & Field Complex**

TOWNHALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Adams serves on the Senate Bill 11 Campus Carry Working Group, which was appointed by UTRGV President Guy Bailey.

“When we hear things that we feel we need to clarify, we do try to jump in,” Adams said last Wednesday. “People are expressing their concerns about safety. That’s coming across loud and clear and, you know, we have the challenge of trying to balance concerns about their safety with what the law requires us to do.”

Within the provisions of the law, universities are allowed to consult the campus community for feedback on rules and

policies that can be established, said Ben Reyna, associate vice president for Security and Campus Affairs and chairman of the working group.

The next town hall meetings will take place from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in Brownsville’s El Gran Salón and from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday in Edinburg’s Student Union Theater.

Members of the campus community may submit comments to campuscarry@utrgv.edu.

--Rider News Editor Angela Cantu contributed to this story.

