

Parking lot break-ins

Six burglaries on TSC campus in October

Oscar Castillo
THE RIDER

At least one University of Texas Rio Grande Valley student was a victim of a series of car burglaries in Texas Southmost parking lots last month.

Art education senior Arlene Escobedo told *The Rider* that she parked her car in TSC Lot P2 next to the Science and Engineering Technology Building on Oct. 2 while she worked on a project at the art studio in Rustenberg Hall.

“Around midnight, I get a call from my mom saying that my car got broken into, and I was like, ‘What do you mean? I’m at school,’” Escobedo said. “So, I went over there to the parking lot and sure enough, my car was broken into. Nothing was taken. There was nothing in there but, yeah, my window was smashed.”

An email from UTRGV Police to the campus community stated that two male suspects, one wearing dark-colored shorts and the other wearing blue jeans, were last seen headed north toward a neighborhood away from campus.

“[TSC] campus security had heard, well, I guess heard [my alarm], and then saw two guys in white shirts run off and they couldn’t find them,” Escobedo said. “They later called actual cops, and those cops called my mom.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Senior art education student Arlene Escobedo’s car was broken into Oct. 2 in Texas Southmost College Lot P2.

Escobedo was the first of six victims in the series of break-ins that took place between 7 p.m. and midnight in October.

Other reported break-ins:

--9:40 p.m. Oct. 10 in TSC Lot P3 (Eidman Hall area). A Pioneer car stereo and an iPod were stolen.

--11:28 p.m. Oct. 16 in TSC Lot P2--SET-B area. Auto insurance information appeared to be missing from the vehicle.

--10:27 p.m. Oct. 18 in TSC Lot P3

--8:54 p.m. Oct. 20 in TSC Lot P2 (South Hall area)

--10:55 p.m. Oct. 23 in TSC Lot P2 (Jacob Brown Auditorium/Arts Center)

Edgar Chrnko Salas, director of marketing and community relations for TSC, emailed *The Rider* a statement from Chet Lewis, TSC’s vice president of Finance and Administration: “We are aware of some recent incidents involving vehicles at the campus. Security is of utmost importance and Texas Southmost College has adjusted security surveillance strategies and increased security presence in areas that have been affected. We are also communicating and coordinating efforts with the Brownsville Police Department and UTRGV Police.”

Students, staff and faculty who hold UTRGV parking permits may park in any Texas Southmost College

parking lots or spaces. TSC and UTRGV legacy institution UT Brownsville were in a partnership for more than 20 years.

J. J. Treviño, a public information officer for the Brownsville Police Department, said no suspects have been arrested in connection with the burglaries.

UTRGV Police Chief Raul Munguia said that oftentimes the department does not hear about cases happening on the TSC campus.

“We heard about one, then after we kind of inquired about it, we then heard that there had been a series of them,” Munguia said about the car burglaries. “Well, that kind of threw up a red warning flag for us, and that, we found out on a Saturday. That being the case, we decided that at least our campus community should know. I mean, because we’re right there. Ringgold Road is what divides us. Still, it’s too close for comfort and some of our students are over there, so we felt our students needed to know. So, we put up that advisory.”

The advisory followed with safety tips that include not leaving valuables in plain sight, securing valuables in the vehicle’s trunk and not allowing suspicious persons or strangers inside your vehicle.

See BREAK-IN, Page 10

Regents approve UTRGV’s provisional mission statement



SCREENSHOT FROM UT SYSTEM WEBCAST

UTRGV President Guy Bailey talks about the provisional mission statement last Wednesday during the board’s Academic Affairs Committee meeting in Austin.

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The University of Texas System board of regents approved the University of Texas

Rio Grande Valley’s provisional mission statement during its meeting last Thursday.

“We are about to begin a strategic planning process at

UTRGV,” UTRGV President Guy Bailey said last Wednesday during the board’s Academic Affairs Committee meeting in Austin. “We’ve timed this to follow after the chancellor’s presentation, his vision, to the board and we’ll begin our strategic planning process. Out of that process, we’ll develop a mission statement for the institution. However, in the meantime, we need a mission statement for accrediting agencies. Some of our programs are being reaccredited and they always ask for a mission statement. So, what we’re asking you to do is to approve a provisional mission statement.”

See REGENTS, Page 10

University pays tribute



FILE PHOTO

The Brownsville Police Department Honor Guard conducts the 21-gun salute during last year’s Veterans Day Ceremony on the Brownsville campus.

Astrid Gonzalez
THE RIDER

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley will honor veterans Wednesday with two events, Remembrance Day National Roll Call at 8 a.m. and the 16th annual Veterans Day

Ceremony at 11 a.m.

The Office of Student Involvement will host the national roll call at the Commons on the Edinburg campus and in the Main Courtyard in Brownsville. The See VETERANS, Page 10

Establishing sustainability roots



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Marta Salinas-Hovar, associate vice president for Facilities and Operations, holds up the Tree Campus USA plaque awarded to the UT Rio Grande Valley by the Arbor Day Foundation during Campus Sustainability Day observed Thursday in Brownsville. UTRGV is one of three universities selected as a finalist in the Tree Campus USA Service Learning Contest by a committee from the foundation. Voting to select the winning campus begins today and ends Friday. The public is encouraged to vote once a day by visiting www.arborday.org/vote.



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Martin Baylor, UTRGV's executive vice president for Finance and Administration, holds the Tree Campus USA plaque in commemoration of the university being recognized by Tree Campus USA Oct. 22 on the Edinburg campus' Chapel lawn.



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Edinburg Assistant City Manager Sonia Marroquin (fourth from left), UTRGV Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Martin Baylor and McAllen Mayor Jim Darling hold plaques in honor of UTRGV being recognized as a 2014 Tree Campus USA university for its commitment to urban forest management and for engaging the campus community in environmental stewardship.



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

UTRGV students and faculty and members of the Brownsville City Commission plant a tree on the Main lawn during the recognition ceremony for the university as a Tree Campus USA.

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Campus community urges gun responsibility



CLARISSA MARTINEZ/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Spanish graduate student Adan Lozano is concerned about how professors would handle conflicts with students who may carry a gun once the law takes effect, and suggests faculty and staff go through proper training on gun control. Lozano was one of 15 people who spoke during the Campus Carry Town Hall meeting Oct. 28 in El Gran Salón on the UTRGV Brownsville campus.



Assistant Professor Mark Kaswan says his concern is not with concealed gun owners who have done their training for their permit, but with students who might grab their dad’s gun and take it to school so that they can be “cool.” He also suggests that if a student says that he has a gun in a threatening manner, that would be grounds for expulsion. Kaswan also hopes to be provided with language he can use in his syllabus in terms of taking guns to class.



Senior business major and veteran Juan Carlos Ayala argues that slow campus security response time and inoperative emergency call phones are some of the reasons that the Campus Carry law should be implemented. He said using a gun requires a lot of practice and those not ready for the responsibility of carrying a gun should not get a handgun license.



Carmen Milton, a junior art major and veteran, suggests that students mention if they will be complying with Campus Carry during class registration so professors can know who is carrying a gun. She said one cannot leave a concealed weapon in a car or office.

Plan of action

UTRGV observes national campaign against sexual assault

Angela Cantu
NEWS EDITOR

The Students Rights and Responsibilities office, the Interfraternity Council and the Greek Life Program are co-sponsoring “It’s on Us,” a national week of action, through Nov. 14.

“It’s on Us” is a campaign that launched in September 2014 and was created to increase awareness of and education about campus sexual assault. During this week, both campuses will conduct pledge drives where students will commit to help keep men and women safe from sexual assault and hear consent presentations.

The scheduled events are as follows:

--12:30-1:30 p.m. Tuesday, a consent presentation for fraternities on the Edinburg campus in Health Sciences and Health Services West building, Room 1.404;

--12:30-1:30 p.m. Tuesday, a consent presentation in Main Building 2.236 on the Brownsville campus;

--11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, a pledge drive in the Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus;

--noon to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, a consent presentation for sororities in the Education Building, Room 1.102

--11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Take the Pledge in the Main Courtyard on the Brownsville campus.

“We all hold the power to greatly reduce [assault] or eliminate [assault] from being such a prominent problem,” said David Marquez, assistant director of Student Rights and Responsibilities on the Brownsville campus. “What we’re going to be doing is hosting a few trainings on consent. What is consent and what’s not.”

The university’s handbook of operating procedures defines consent as “knowing and voluntary words or actions clearly expressing mutually understandable permission to engage in each instance of sexual activity. Silence, in and of itself, cannot be interpreted as consent.”

To learn more about the “It’s on Us” campaign, visit the website at www.itsonus.org.

Visit us at
utrgvrider.com

Unofficial Elections Results As Of: Nov. 4, 2015 11:56 a.m.					
Texas Proposition 1: Increases homestead exemption from ad valorem tax for public schools			Texas Proposition 2: Provides an ad valorem tax exemption for disabled veteran spouses		
FOR	86%	AGAINST	14%	FOR	91%
1,367,367 Votes		215,781 Votes		1,431,442 Votes	134,394 Votes
Texas Proposition 3: Repeals requirement state officers must reside in the state capital			Texas Proposition 4: Permits professional sports team charitable foundations to conduct raffle		
FOR	66%	AGAINST	34%	FOR	69%
1,019,826 Votes		523,948 Votes		1,072,905 Votes	472,566 Votes
Texas Proposition 5: Authorizes certain counties to construct and maintain private roads			Texas Proposition 6: Recognizes the right for people to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife		
FOR	83%	AGAINST	17%	FOR	81%
1,276,900 Votes		266,108 Votes		1,258,472 Votes	294,575 Votes
Texas Proposition 7: Dedicates certain taxes to the state highway fund					
FOR	83%	AGAINST	17%		
1,293,064 Votes		260,537 Votes			
Source: Texas Office of the Secretary of State					

MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

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Wanderlust in the land of royals

Astrid Gonzalez
THE RIDER



Sometimes it's a thrill, excitement or boredom that ignites the urge to do something you've never done before. For me, it was a combination of all three. It was time to do something that was fun and life-changing.

I signed up with the International Study Abroad Program with the university, which was still UT Pan American at the time. The program I had initially signed up for didn't make it, so I had to switch at the last minute. I was approved to do a minimester in London, England, and I was terrified.

The thing is, like most of us, I had never ventured outside the U.S. and I was going to a place I'd only seen in pictures and on TV. I didn't know what to expect.

I was going to breathe the same air as Prince William and Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge. As that thought occurred to me, I felt very important.

Yet, I had to mentally and physically prepare myself for what would be the most challenging and life-changing three weeks of my life.

Upon arrival at Gatwick Airport in London, I was awestruck by how different London looked from the U.S. Then, when the massive jet lag began taking a toll on us, I realized this was really happening. However, since a friend and I had arrived three days before our study abroad group, we were lost, to say the least.

We had no cell phone service for three days, so we tried to explore as much as we could, without putting ourselves in a dangerous situation.

As the days passed by, I gained a new understanding of the diversity of cultures. There were people from all over the world in London. Whether I was walking the busy street of Oxford or simply riding a double-decker to get my meal for the day, the variety of people was entirely different from what I was used to here in the Valley. It was something I learned to appreciate.

An upper-level course is hard as it is, but it's harder when you try to take it in two weeks and fit in time to explore London all at once. The challenging things were handling the time difference, still trying to go to class, managing homework, as well as having enough free time.

The most monumental thing I experienced was viewing the London Bridge and London Eye (the giant Ferris wheel) lit up in pink for the birth of Prince William and Kate's baby girl, "Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte of Cambridge."

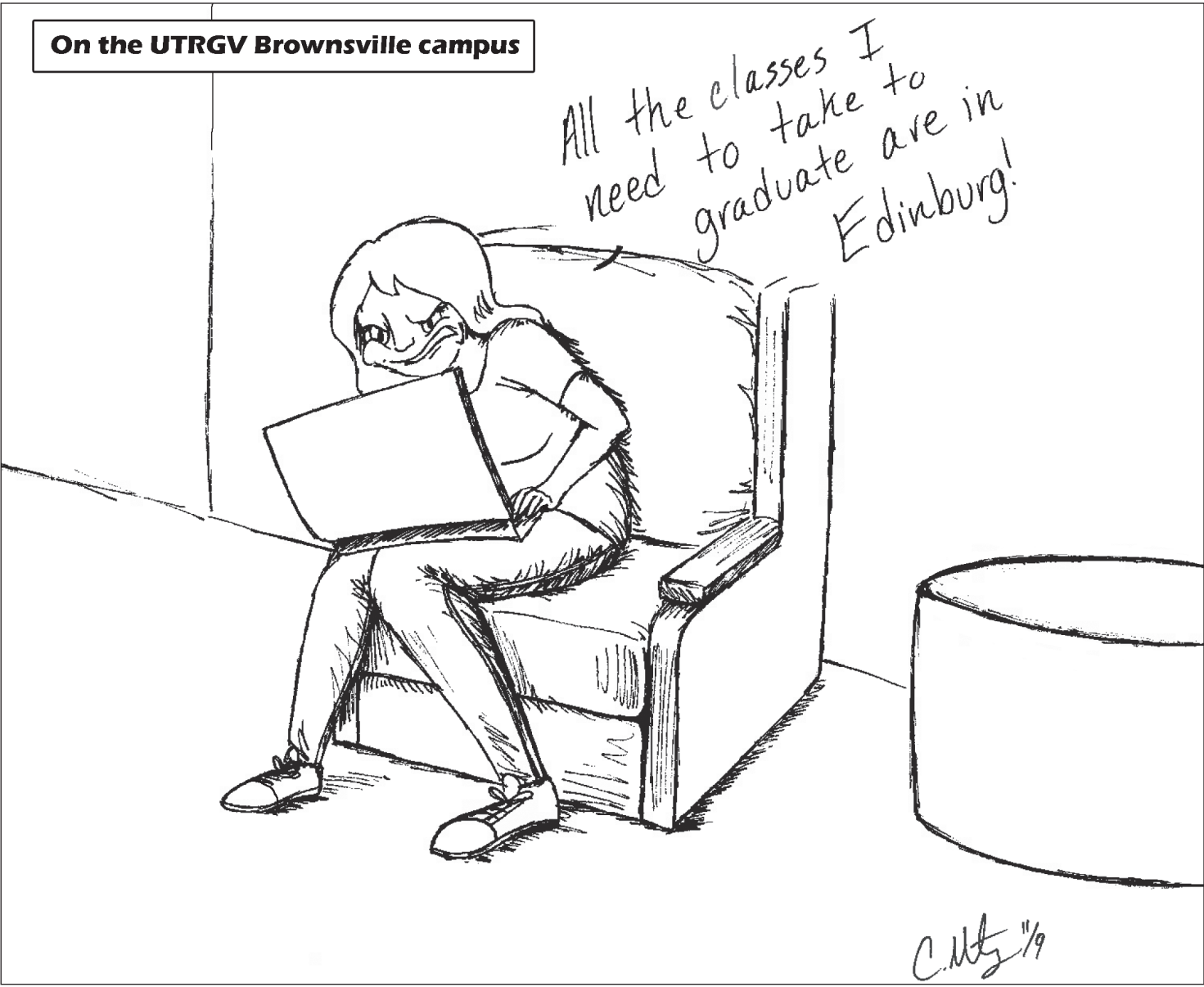
That's a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I'm glad that I took that trip because not only did I witness the lighting of the London Bridge, but I also learned how to engage and interact with various people of all colors, ethnicities and races. I was able to learn how to multitask in a short time, to handle jet lag, complete assignments, work with students in the London study abroad program, meet people from the U.K. and learn from their culture and experiences.

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On the UTRGV Brownsville campus



Campus Q & A

What do you consider to be the biggest challenge as a college student?



Luis Daniel De la O
History and Spanish
junior

"Personally, I consider my time organizing. Like, I have to take care of my brother. I have to take care of my family and then I have to go to college and care for my studies and for my papers. Personally, I try to balance most of it, especially during the weekends, where I can focus all my attention on my family. The rest of the week, I have all this time set especially for school. Being here at the library, recording stuff, getting sources, whatever."



Alexandra Hinojosa
Elementary education
freshman

"Learning responsibilities for my studies and changing the way I think, from a high school student to a college student. The biggest challenge for me is having to keep up with everything, with my work, with my studies, remembering to check my emails, remembering to turn in assignments on time, remembering to show up to study sessions and to lectures."



Jacqueline Calvo
Nursing freshman

--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza and Lesley Robles

"Being able to manage your time wisely. Just knowing how to keep the fun balanced with the homework."



Luis Muñoz Jr.
Management junior

"I think the biggest challenge is food. Let's say that you are trying to get your schedule, to come two days a week; you need to either bring food or you have to buy food, and it sucks buying food. I always bring my food and the problem with that is that there is always huge lines for the microwaves. Over the years, there is only four microwaves in the union. I know that now there is some upstairs. They should invest in at least two more, and some of them don't even work. It's tough eating. Sometimes I'll skip class and then go eat."

Letter to the editor:

Let's rethink our approach

Texas Senate Bill 11 passed this past legislative session and was subsequently signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott in June. It allows the carrying of concealed weapons by people with permits at public and private university campuses (private institutions can choose to opt out of this requirement) starting August 2016.

The Campus Carry Working Group is tasked with creating policies to regulate concealed handgun carrying on campus. *The Rider* and several other media outlets covered the town halls that happened during these past weeks. These events were filled with members of the university community expressing their disagreement and agreement with this new law. The main goal of the town halls was

to get input from the community about the regulations we should implement to control gun carrying on campus. It was exciting to see the number of students who were eager to participate and make their voices heard. Many professors and students had inspiring stories and comments on their stance for/against this law. It was evident that most of our constituents are very concerned with the impact SB11 could have in our campus life and in our education. Knowing that a big part of the student body feels uneasy about the possible repercussions of this law is concerning as the student body president.

An article by David Kopel of *The Washington Post* examines the case

of the state of Colorado, which has allowed concealed handgun carry by permit-holders on their public university campuses since 2003. They have not had a mass shooting or major gun-related incident at any of their institutions of higher education. Kopel also mentions that in numbers provided by the U.S. Census Bureau for the National Crime Victimization Survey, between 1992 and 2002, 26 out of 2,000 people interviewed who were raped or sexually assaulted said they used a weapon to protect themselves. "In none of those 26 cases was the rape completed."

To understand just how big of an

See LETTER, Page 10

Printing for the masses

Relief exhibit follows workshop

Monica Gudiño
THE RIDER

“YayBig Southwest,” an exhibit that opened last Tuesday in the Art Gallery at Rusteberg Hall on the Brownsville campus, featured work from artist Zeke Peña and other printmakers.

“It was an experience, as an artist, to grow and learn to see a different media in a different field and kind of enjoy, at least from this artist’s passion, how he works in his process,” said art freshman Vanessa Martinez, who was one of about 30 people who attended a workshop before the show opened.

In printmaking, artists carve an image into a piece of wood or other material and ink is then applied. Next, paper is pressed against the art by hand or with a pressing machine. Finally, the paper is separated from the material, revealing the completed relief print.

“I think it’s very interesting for somebody, like I, who is totally not familiar with printmaking,” Martinez said. “It’s very educational and really fun.”

Other artists featured are Jesus “Cimi” Alvarado, Carlos Barberena, Chris Bardey, Michael Contreras, Karsten Creightney, Francisco Delgado, Gonzalo Espinosa, Juan R. Fuentes, Manuel Guerra, Daniel Gonzalez, Devon Inglee, Eli Levin, Danny Martin, Joe Marshall, Juan de Dios Mora, Henry Morales, Marogon, Victor Muheddine, Martin Quintanilla, Rezizte, Michael Roman,

Tanya Rich and Toru Sugita.

This exhibit started as an exchange of works between artists from Tucson and El Paso.

“It’s a conversation with all of these artists from different cities,” Peña said. “So, it’s kind of creating a dialogue, I think, and it’s allowing each artist to kind of show their work and then talk that way.”

The collection of prints is owned by artist and collector Karl Whitaker, an Albuquerque, N.M., native.

“I think it’s really about inspiring people,” Peña said. “Really inspiring people to get the work out of the studio ... and actually putting it out in the community, so that people can look at it.”

“Orale,” a piece Peña was asked to create, showing his love for El Paso, is featured in the exhibit. Peña said his love for El Paso is the same as his love for the city across the border, Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico.

“So, the person that’s portrayed in the image is standing on a bridge [that] overlooks both El Paso and Juarez,” Peña continued. “There is some iconography in there, you know, ‘*cholismo*’ or ‘*vato*,’ which is kind of a classic iconic image for the Chicano community in El Paso.”

He said there are other symbolic images in his print. The person in the print is wearing a United Farm Workers button, which represents that he is conscious about politics and social injustice issues.

“In the background of the image, there is a picture or depiction of El Puente



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Artist Zeke Peña talks to Camas Key, a UTRGV physics lecturer, about his art.

Negro, which is an iconic bridge from El Paso for people crossing the border,” Peña said.

The artists featured in the exhibit are from the Southwest and Mexico and their prints are inspired by Mexican art.

“I think it’s a really well put together exhibit. It shows a lot of relief prints,” said art junior Alex Garcia. “The level of technicality that these artists have is pretty amazing.”

The gallery’s 2015 Fall hours are 10

a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday and noon-4 p.m. Friday.

Admission is free for Patron of the Arts members. General admission is \$1 and student semester passes are \$3. The exhibit continues through Nov.25.

For more information, call the Art Gallery at Rusteberg Hall at 882-7025.

One with nature

Celebrating the arts and migration

Ena Capucion

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The Scenic Arts Festival was originally scheduled Oct. 24 to create art while among nature. However, with the unexpected rain that swept through the Rio Grande Valley, the festival has been moved to this Saturday in conjunction with the Edinburg Scenic Wetlands and Birding Center’s Migration Celebration.

Events run from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Birding Center, 714 S. Raul Longoria Rd., and will be hosted by Edinburg Arts. The organization’s Cultural Activities Board seeks to preserve, promote, develop and encourage the community to participate in cultural expression. The City of Edinburg’s Art Coordinator, Magdiel Alfonso, said the Scenic Arts Festival is the first of its kind and is designed to appreciate nature in all forms of art.

“The Birding Center has previously had other festivals with other city departments, but it was mostly outdoor

exhibits,” Alfonso said. “The Scenic Arts is different in the sense that everything is interactive and informative. The artists will be present and [attendees] will be able to see the ceramist make things, the painters will be painting live--everything will be nature and naturally oriented in Edinburg.”

The Scenic Arts Festival takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will feature painters, sculptors, pottery makers, glass workers as well as poets, musicians and dancers.

In March 2003, the Birding Center in Edinburg was the first of nine to open across the Rio Grande Valley. The purpose of the centers is to expand awareness of and value toward the state’s ecological treasures along the border for 120 miles, from South Padre Island to Roma.

The center has hosted Migration Celebration for at least six years with different themes such as the monarch and bird migration. Interpretive naturalist

Monica Barrera, who works at the center, said it will be celebrating migration for animals as well as humans.

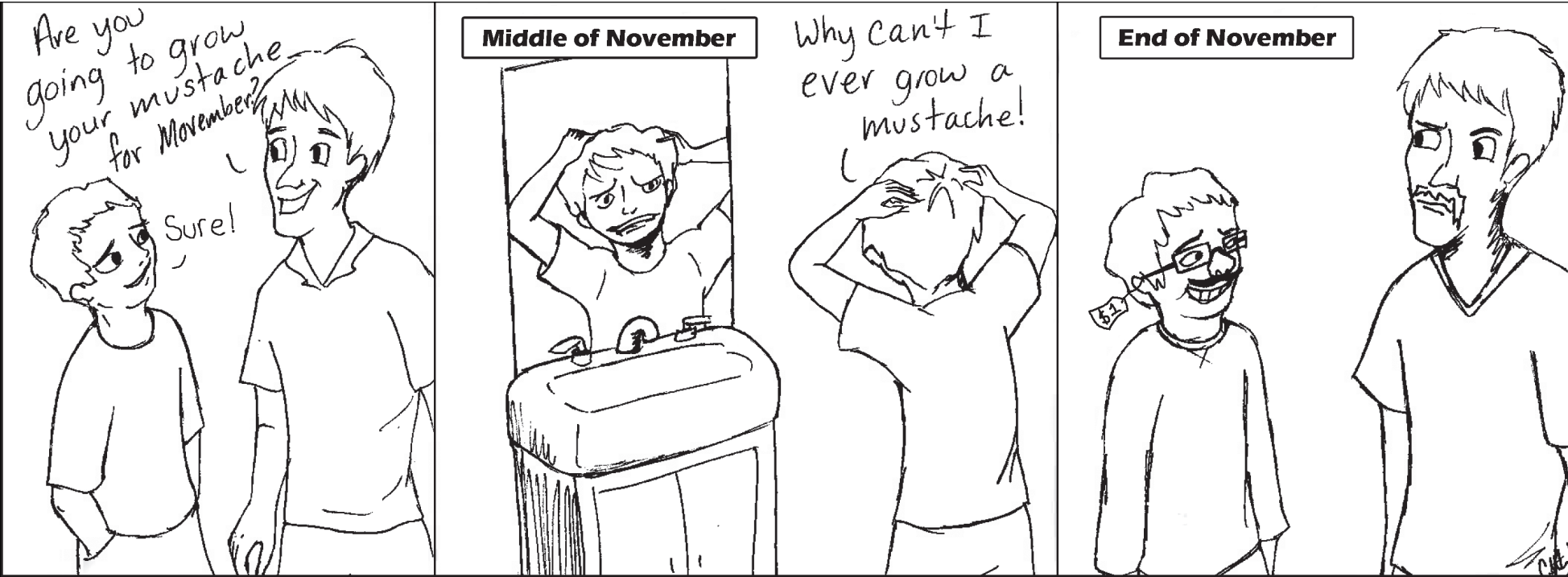
“We’re celebrating the migration of animals in general--just the fact that they migrate--they go from one place to another,” Barrera said. “It’s just incredible how, depending on the species, they travel a certain distance, they know exactly where they need to go. It’s like the [animals] are programmed to migrate whether they’ve done it before or not.”

The Migration Celebration, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., will include handcrafts, face painting and other outdoor activities.

To end the night, the park will show Disney’s “Earth,” a film that features wildlife across the globe at 7 p.m..

Those interested in volunteering may contact Barrera at 381-9922. The deadline for volunteer sign-up is Thursday.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free flu shots

UTRGV Health Services staff will administer free flu shots to the campus community from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at its clinics, located at 613 N. Sugar Rd. in Edinburg and in Cortez Hall 237 in Brownsville. For more information, call 665-2511 or 882-3896.

Be the Match

A Be the Match Bone Marrow Registry Drive will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today through Wednesday at the Main Building, in the library and the Student Union on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 882-3896.

RiSA Festival

The Rio Grande Science and Arts (RiSA) Festival continues with Science Café meetings, which are scheduled from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. today at El Hueso de Fraile, located at 837 E. Elizabeth St. in downtown Brownsville and from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Causeway Café, 418 E. Queen Isabella Blvd. in Port Isabel. For more information, call Joey Shapiro Key,

director of education and outreach for the Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy, at 882-6665.

High School Teaching Jobs

A panel of four teachers will talk about their work teaching high school English Language Arts in the Rio Grande Valley at 5 p.m. Tuesday in ARHU 310 on the Edinburg campus. The event is part of the English Education Series. For more information, email amy.cummins@utrgv.edu.

Border economics symposium

The Border Economics, Development and Entrepreneurship Symposium, or B.E.D.E.S. 2015, will take place from 8:15 a.m. to 1:10 p.m. Tuesday at the McAllen Country Club, 615 Wichita Ave. Experts from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and community leaders will discuss transportation and electronic infrastructure of the region and what the future will likely hold for the economy of the border region. For more information, call 562-8796.

Karaoke Fun

Vaqueros on the Mic will begin at noon Tuesday in the Student Union Café on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 882-5111 or 665-7991.

Finance education workshop

Learn money-saving strategies at La Puerta Workshop, scheduled from 11 a.m. to noon Thursday in the Main Building's Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus. The finance education workshop is sponsored by the Community Development Corp. of Brownsville. For more information, call 459-5249.

UT Law School presentations

Dean Ward Farnsworth will meet Nov.17 with students interested in applying to the University of Texas at Austin School of Law at 1 p.m. in the Main Building's Salón Cassia in Brownsville and at 3:30 p.m. in the Engineering Building Auditorium, room 1.300, in Edinburg. For more information, email Jerry Polinard, faculty adviser for the Pre-Law Society, at jerry.polinard@utrgv.edu. --Compiled by Monica Gudiño



POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Oct. 26 and Nov. 3.



October 26

8:30 a.m.: A student reported that her ex-boyfriend had been following her from Mission to the Edinburg campus. He approached the student as she was dropping their children off at the UTRGV Day Care. University Police issued the ex-boyfriend an indefinite criminal trespass warning.

10:59 a.m.: A student reported that his vehicle was struck while it was parked in lot B2 on the Edinburg campus.

11:53 a.m.: A student reported that his computer was stolen during a burglary at his off-campus apartment Oct. 24. An application on his computer alerted him that the computer was on campus. University and City of Edinburg Police are investigating the case.

5:04 p.m.: A student reported he started feeling symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder after preparing for a test. A university police officer advised him to skip the exam because it might elevate his anxiety and stress. The student left the campus without incident.

October 27

5:40p.m.: A faculty member and student had a minor vehicle collision in lot A1. No injuries were reported and there was minor damage on both vehicles.

6:30 p.m.: A student reported she was invited to smoke marijuana and drink alcohol by a male in parking lot N2. The student said she was scared and went to the police department to report the incident.

October 28

4:07p.m.: The Casa Bella student housing complex entrance gate malfunctioned after a compact car hit it. The gate was repaired and video was reviewed for identification of the vehicle.

6:32 p.m.: A student fainted in the University Library in Brownsville after feeling ill. Emergency medical services personnel were called and said the student had normal vital signs and it could have been a panic attack caused by anxiety. The student declined transport to a hospital and left the area with a family member without further incident.

6:32 p.m.: An international student was found to be living in Washington, D.C., after the Department of Student Rights and Responsibilities reported him missing from class and not contacting his professors. After further investigation, it was discovered the student was in Virginia and had no intention of returning to the university to finish the semester due to financial difficulties.

October 30

8:18 a.m.: A staff member reported a student smoking a cigarette near the Student Union on the Brownsville campus. University Police advised the individual

that the UTRGV Brownsville campus is a non-smoking campus. The student was told the incident would be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs for violating the Student Code of Conduct.

October 31

6:45 a.m.: University Police responded to a fire alarm at the Troxel Hall dorms in Edinburg. A fire panel indicated a water flow issue in one of the rooms. The Edinburg Fire Department cleared the building and reset the panel.

November 1

2:32p.m.: A Casa Bella resident reported that she had been assaulted by a friend who grabbed her wrist, caused her pain and made her feel threatened. An officer attempted several times to contact the suspect but was unsuccessful.

November 2

1:10p.m.: A Brownsville library staff member reported that three stickers

promoting the social network app Yik Yak were posted throughout the library. Officers took custody of the stickers.

7:17 p.m.: Officers responding to a report of marijuana odor at Casa Bella cited a resident for being in possession of drug paraphernalia after they found a glass smoking pipe containing marijuana residue inside his sink cabinet.

November 3

11:23 a.m.: University Police contacted a student accused of copying his friend's parking permit and placing it on his vehicle. The student's information was forwarded to the Dean of Students office.

3:50 p.m.: A pregnant staff member who fell after exiting her vehicle was evaluated by emergency medical services and transported to the Valley Regional Medical Center.

--Compiled by Andrea Torres

CLUB SPOTLIGHT



MONICA GUDIÑO/THE RIDER

Members of the Student Organization for Unique Learners include (front row, from left) Clarissa Gomez, Vice President Ray Latigo, President Susanna Perales, Adviser Hsuying Ward, Secretary 1 Michelle Villarreal and Joanna Carranco. Second row: Estrella Hernández, Jessemel Estrada, Natasha Vora and Rigo Pérez. Third row: Luis Macias, Jasmine Luke, Miguel Rodríguez, Abigail Núñez and Pablo Jiménez. Fourth row: Yash Mathur, Hari Das and Hari Kotta.

Name: Student Organization for Unique Learners

Purpose: To promote and distribute awareness to the campus and community regarding the exceptionalities of unique learners and their abilities.

President: Susana Perales

Vice President: Ray Latigo

Secretary 1: Michelle Villarreal

Secretary 2: Cinthia de los Santos

Treasurer: Marina Hernandez

Social Chairman: Jimena Castillo

Adviser: Hsuying Ward, assistant professor in the Human Development and School Services Department, and

Steve Chamberlain, interim associate dean of P-16 Integration and graduate programs in the College of Education.

Activities: Service learning showcase, Autism Walk, Disability Awareness Fair, Beep Easter Egg Hunt, White Cane Day, guest speakers (National Federation of the Blind) and S.O.U.L. socials.

Meetings: 7:15 p.m. every other Monday

Membership requirements: \$10 dues

For more information, email: soul.utrgv@gmail

--Compiled by Monica Gudiño

NEW LOOK AND FEEL

Men's basketball revitalized with speed and experience

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

Change is a comin' to the men's basketball team. New faces are the status quo on Sam Williams Court. New personnel make up much of the roster as only four players return to the squad that finished the 2014-15 cycle as Broncs.

It's safe to say there might be a break in the continuity, but that's probably a good thing.

A year ago, the WAC season was turbulent, with four wins coming in 14 tries. The wins were sandwiched between a pair of three-game losing streaks and one four-game skid.

A season ago the team allowed 34.3 points in the first half, while only scoring 28.2, the deficit was often too much to come back from.

Despite losing their top scorer from a season ago, Janari Joesaar, as well as starting point guard, Shaq Boga, Coach Dan Hipsher believes that this team is more balanced and emphasizes the team aspect of basketball. Many additions to the lineup include transfers and men with experience playing college ball.

"It's nice because the veteran kids, like fifth-year J.J. [Thompson] and Dakota [Slaughter], they've also got size, strength and maturity," the 38-year veteran bench boss said. "They've been in the fire before, they've been in tough competition. They've been in high-quality competing places."

Much of Hipsher's excitement came from the speed that he has noticed watching his team in practice, a trait that he said can help on both offense and the defensive side of the ball.

"This is the first time really we've had a more balanced program in terms of size and strength and speed," he said. "We have a lot more balance and we have less ball stoppage. We have better ball movement, more team movement."

One of those players that are new to the program but not



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Chris Ikeunobe blocks a shot during practice Nov. 2 in the UTRGV Fieldhouse. The Nigerian will use his 6-foot-9-inch frame to try to defend the rim.

new to the Division 1 hoops is Slaughter. The 6-foot-7-inch graduate student who plays forward spent his previous years at the University of Alabama, where he played under Hipsher, who served as an associate head coach with the Crimson Tide.

Slaughter's last year of college basketball will be spent as a Vaquero and he is ready for the chance to impress.

"It's always great to have another opportunity to play college basketball. This is one of the best times of your life," the Fishers, Ind., native and former SEC academic honor roll member said. "You try to go ahead and work those kinks out [in practice] and hit the ground running. To be honest, though, it never works out that way. These first few games are going to be a little bit rough but the idea is you want to be hitting your stride come February and March when conference play starts. It's not to say these first games are not important but things will change throughout

the year and you got to work some things out."

There is a veteran presence, however, who has been a part of the same program his whole career. This player should not be overlooked when listing important cogs of the men's program.

Shaq Hines, a senior in his fourth year on the team, has been through both a coaching and a name change in his time with the program. That's not what's on his mind though. Hines sees a talented team that he has a responsibility to lead.

"I'm more a lead-by-example type of leader. Of course, I get vocal sometimes, but that's not really what I do," said Hines, the 6-foot-8-inch Chicago native. "If you wanna know what to do, just try to look at me and see what I do."

In his junior season Hines averaged 12.6 points per game and also led UTPA in field goal percentage. But this year he's focused on the team he will work with the whole season.

"It's probably the biggest we've ever been, with size, we have big men all around the floor," he said. "We're just more talented than the past couple of years. We're just a better team defensively, I think."

The size he speaks of could help contribute to an overall improvement on the backboards. The team was out-rebounded by a four-rebound-per-game margin, and their opponents' shooting percentage was 44.

Only real action will show the differences between this group and last year's squad plays. The team that at first glance seems to have major areas of improvement will have the chance to test their game in action soon.

The Vaqueros will take their show on the road Friday and Nov. 16 to Florida against Miami University and the University of North Florida respectively. The home opener is set for Nov. 20 against Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Athlete of the Week



JACQUELINE ARIAS/THE RIDER

Name: Teresa Sovo
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Education
Sports: Cross-Country, Track and Field

Age: 19
Hometown: Edinburg

Who is your favorite athlete? "I don't really have a favorite athlete."

Who is your role model? "My mother."

What is the best advice you've been given and by whom? "My mother, she's told me that anything that you do, to always work hard and do your best."

Where's your favorite hangout spot on campus?

Why? "I like the Quad. I just like to sit there."

When did you begin running in cross-country and why did you start? "I began running in eighth grade. I started running because I liked running and wanted to do something in my spare time. Turned out I was good at it."

Did you compete in high school and did you get any awards? "Yes, I was in cross-country and track all of ninth to 12th grades. I went to state junior and senior year. I've gotten most improved and most valuable."

What are your academic goals? "I'm shooting for the semester a 4.0. All A's."

What is your favorite movie? "13 Going on 30."

Is there a song that gets your head in the game? "Any Eminem songs."

Where's your dream vacation? "Hawaii."

How do you feel about being part of the first UTRGV Women's Cross-Country Team? "I'm excited since we're the first because we can set standards and goals."

--Compiled by Jacqueline Arias

Abrupt ending

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

Five saves from sophomore Erica Gonzalez was not enough to keep the UTRGV women's soccer season alive in their Western Athletic Conference opening-round match last Thursday in Bakersfield, Calif.

The Vaqueros fell 3-0 to the University of Missouri-Kansas City Kangaroos. UMKC only needed one goal for a win, which they scored in minute 22, but tacked on two more. UTRGV was outshot 12-6 in the match.

The second-year program finishes the year with an overall record of 5-12-3.



Vaqueros guard J.J. Thompson drives the ball in practice while being guarded by Lew Stallworth.



Vaqueros guard Lew Stallworth pushes the pace on a fast break during practice at the UTRGV Fieldhouse.

Día de los Muertos on Wheels



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Children ride their bikes Nov. 1 in a car-free environment during Cyclobia2U. Attendees participated in reclinovias, or activity areas, that included Loteria, Resaca Bingo and Zumba. The event, which featured a *Día de los Muertos* theme, encouraged residents and visitors to adopt cycling, walking and other environmentally friendly and active forms of transportation, according to a city news release.



Marion Molina (left) and Martha Molina enjoy an afternoon with family at Cyclobia2U.

VETERANS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Veterans Day Ceremony, hosted by Veterans Upward Bound, will follow on the Main Building lawn.

“I think that any type of celebration or ceremony that recognizes both the accomplishments and the sacrifices that service members make are always a good idea,” Veterans Service Center Program Coordinator Frank Martinez said about Remembrance Day. “Our goal for this year is to do just that.”

Communication Lecturer Frederick Mann served as a major in the Infantry branch of the U.S. Army Reserve and is an active video public affairs officer for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary on South Padre Island.

“To me it’s a sacred day,” Mann said. “I don’t know, it always gets me choked up. These guys risk their lives and, you know, we have to wish them the best.”

The university is looking for 40

volunteers at the Brownsville campus to read the names of those who have fallen during the event.

Keynote speaker for the Veterans Day Ceremony will be Nursing Professor and U.S. Army veteran Eloisa Tamez.

Student Development Specialist Lizette McNain said Veterans Upward Bound will accept items for care packages during the ceremony.

“We’re going to have a booth on that day,” McNain said. “[We’re] going to be giving out information on how the community can help in making care packages for the veterans.”

Items for care packages can be dropped off in Student Union 2.28 on the Brownsville campus. Some of the items include 2-in-1 toothbrushes, Ramen soup, mouthwash and deodorant.

For more information about National Roll Call Day, call the UTRGV Veterans Service Center at 882-8980 in Brownsville and 665-7934 in Edinburg.

--Oscar Castillo and Jesus Sanchez contributed to this story.

BREAK-IN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Munguia said he and TSC’s new security team, American Surveillance, will share information more closely as well as have a better working relationship.

UTRGV Police will also order bicycles

for public safety officers and security guards in an effort to be more engaged in the inner campus in Edinburg and Brownsville.

Anyone witnessing suspicious activity is encouraged to call University Police at 882-8232 in Brownsville or 665-7151 in Edinburg.

REGENTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bailey said the mission statement was crafted based on the guiding principles for the new university approved by the regents on July 10, 2013. The statement lays out permanent priorities for UTRGV.

Steven Leslie, the UT System’s executive vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, and Bailey gave the recommendation for the proposed provisional mission statement.

The statement reads:

“The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley provides a high quality, innovative, and affordable education to the students of South Texas, the State of Texas, the United States and the world.

The University will transform Texas and the nation through student success, research, healthcare, and commercialization of university discoveries.”

Alberto Adame, president of UTRGV’s Student Government Association, said he agrees with the proposed mission statement and is happy the board of regents approved it.

“We, as the students, we can tell that some of the pieces are still falling in place and this is just one more of it,” Adame said. “I think the mission statement is very accurate of what the university officials have been doing and we, as the student body, have been pushing for. ... I really like it. It’s just one more step in establishing the university.”

The provisional mission statement will serve as the foundation for the development of the institution’s first

strategic plan. This ongoing process will involve UTRGV students, faculty and staff.

In 2013, the Texas Legislature repealed Texas Education Code Section 61.051(e), which directed the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to review the mission statements of public institutions every four years.

Each institution is required to have a mission statement under Texas Education Code Section 51.359. Furthermore, Section 51.352 of the code, regarding the Responsibility of Governing Boards, requires governing boards to “insist on clarity of focus and mission of each institution under its governance.”

In accordance with a directive by the board of regents on March 26, 2008, each mission statement must include a statement regarding the commercialization of university discoveries.

In November 2014, the board of regents amended Rule 10402, Section 1.7 (Duties of the Academic Affairs Committee), which directs the Academic Affairs Committee to review proposed changes to an academic institution’s mission statement and make recommendations to the board for approval.

A university’s president’s office can submit proposed changes to the mission statement of the university to proposal intake@utsystem.edu with a request for consideration by the UT System Academic Affairs Committee and board of regents.

LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

impact SB11 could have at our campus, let’s look at the following figures:

For the Fall 2014 semester, the Edinburg campus had 21,015 students officially enrolled (Data provided by the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness of UTPA). Of those 21,015, 12,723 are age 21 or older (21 is the minimum age to be eligible to be a license holder in Texas). The population of Texas for 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, was 29.96 million. The Texas Department of Public Safety reported as of Dec. 31, 2014, there were 825,957 active license holders. Based on those figures, 1.67 percent of the student body on the Edinburg campus could be active license holders. I would dare to say that the percentage of license holders on the Brownsville campus would be similar.

Unfortunately, I did not have the statistics for the Brownsville campus available when writing this. However, the numbers provided should be enough to

let everyone know that, no, our campus will not be significantly more dangerous than what it is right now with SB 11 in place. I firmly believe that people with permits to carry guns are among the most responsible in our society. We will continue to be as safe a campus as before, and we will continue to work to make sure this is preserved. In the meantime, I encourage everyone to relax and send suggestions to campuscarry@utrgv.edu. Student involvement in institutional decision-making helps our university grow greater each day.

Alberto Adame
UTRGV Student Government Association president

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FALL TEACHERS JOB EXPO



November 12, 2015
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Brownsville Campus
El Gran Salon
(Student Union)

UTRGV
.....
Career Center

November 13, 2015
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Edinburg Campus
Fieldhouse (HPE I)

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