

UTRGV continues Kappa Sigma investigation

Alton police close case

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The university continues to investigate an incident in which members of the Kappa Sigma fraternity at UTRGV allegedly fired rifles in an Alton-area ranch early March 3, officials say.

“This whole time, we were going to let [the Alton Police Department] handle the criminal part of the investigation. They’re the authorities and that’s their job,” said Patrick Gonzales, assistant vice president of University Marketing and Communications. “Our investigation was about any violation of the student conduct and discipline portion of it.”

Gonzales said the university is investigating the incident to determine if a violation was committed.

Alton Police Chief Enrique Sotelo told *The Rider* his department closed the case March 4. Four individuals were given citations with fines that range from \$200 to \$250.

“There were four citations issued for disorderly conduct. See FRATERNITY, Page 5

Women’s History for Women’s Future

Events promote empowerment



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Mass communication junior Brenda Salinas poses for a picture with the name of the woman who inspires her during the Women’s Day event in the Student Union on March 8.

Marissa Rodriguez
THE RIDER

“Mi mamá, Francisca Alonso,” reads the dry-

erase board that Mexican American studies major Abraham Diaz held up in the picture posted to the UTRGV

Student Life Facebook page. This post is part of the “Women Who Inspire” social media campaign for

Women’s History Month, which encouraged students to share the name of a powerful woman in their lives to promote the idea that every woman is powerful in her own way.

Along with the social media campaign, UTRGV Student Involvement departments collaborated to honor the traditions of Women’s History Month with several events on both campuses that aim to empower and inspire the young women of UTRGV.

Yaribel Caraveo, program coordinator for Leadership and Social Change, and Raul Leal, Student Organizations’ program specialist, organized events that would be relevant to UTRGV students’ interests by providing opportunities to learn from successful women on a personal and professional level.

“We wanted to empower the women here in our community to believe that [they] can be whatever they want to be,” Caraveo said.

See WOMEN, Page 5

Ready, set, campaign

Candidates prepare for SGA elections



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

UTRGV Student Government Association candidates listen to campaign instructions during the mandatory meeting March 10 in Sabal Hall 2.106 on the Brownsville campus. The meeting was held to review election guidelines.

Felipe Zamorano
THE RIDER

Campaigning for the Student Government Association elections starts Sunday, with at least 25 candidates seeking a position.

The election committee conducted two information sessions on each campus March 10 to inform candidates of the campaign and election rules

and procedures.

Ten candidates in Edinburg and at least 16 in Brownsville attended the sessions.

In the meetings, SGA co-advisers Cindy Mata, director of Student Activities, and Delma Olivarez, interim associate dean for Student Involvement and director of Leadership and Mentoring, explained the guidelines established by the

election committee of which they are both part.

Mata said the committee establishes the guidelines and oversees the election to make sure everything is fair and runs smoothly.

In addition to Mata and Olivarez, the election committee is composed of one student representative from

See SGA, Page 5

Monica Gudiño
THE RIDER

Greek Week is underway at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, bringing together fraternities and sororities for a series of events that are open to the public.

“There are competitions but the way we have it this year, they’ll be collaborating with each other,” said Rolando Gonzalez, student program adviser for Fraternity and Sorority Life. “Instead of just competition and creating any type of animosity towards each other or any type of negative collaborations, we are actually

More Greek Week stories,
Page 6-7

encouraging that by teaming them up.”

There are six sororities, seven fraternities and two co-ed fraternities.

The festivities started Sunday with the the Greek Week Kickoff.

Gonzalez said this was a welcome back for students.

“We know that they are returning from Spring Break week, so rather than having them come back at a slow See GREEK, Page 9

Strengthening Greek unity

GREEK WEEK 2016

Today

Baseball Game

6 p.m.

Baseball Stadium

Tuesday

Field Day

12-1:30 p.m.

North Quad

Wednesday

Beach Volleyball

6-9 p.m.

UREC

Thursday

Talent Show

6-9 p.m.

Student Union Theater

MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

feeling a little
spicy?



**AVOCADO BLT
FLATBREAD**

Spice it up with turkey
bacon, baby spinach,
tomato, shredded parmesan
cheese and sriracha
smashed avocado on a
flatbread



(c) 2014 The Coca-Cola Company. All rights reserved.

ONLY AVAILABLE
AT THE
BROWNSVILLE
CAMPUS



subconnection
by *sodexo*

**STUDENT
UNION**

EAT • PLAY • STUDY • RELAX



**ALL YOU CAN EAT
NUGGET EVENT**

Wednesday: March 23, 2016

Time: 4:00 PM-6:00 PM

**UTRGV Students, Faculty &
Staff: \$14.99**

Located at Student Union (Edinburg)

Includes:

- Medium Drink (Free Refills)
- Unlimited Nuggets
- Unlimited Waffle Fries

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Purchase tickets at
Chick-Fil-A inside the
Student Union

Located in the Student
Union Edinburg Campus



HAPPY CAMPER

Life Adventures
TRAILGUIDE
Find Joy in the Journey

#LocatedInTheLibrary
#beatrailblazer

TRAIL MIX COOKIE
freshly baked oatmeal cookie
fused with trail mix & cinnamon

Contains nuts.

EDINBURG CAMPUS

JAZZMANS
BREW & BAKERY
by *sodexo*



Oh, Snap!

Administration determines the efficiency of mobile social media account

Rick R. Ramirez
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Communication junior Steven Masso is an avid Snapchat user.

“[Snapchat] is a place where you can send pictures and videos back and forth to your friends,” Masso said. “I use it every day. I send lots of pictures to my friends.”

On March 4, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Social Media Manager Josse Garrido asked the campus community to send emails and testimonials to prove the efficiency of the university’s Snapchat account.

“Snapchat is a social media tool that allows people to stay connected, similar to Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms,” Garrido said. “What makes Snapchat so unique is that it is a more personal relationship that you can build, and it is a different kind of engagement than the ones you can get from other social media platforms.”

The application does not have a web-friendly interface, which makes it unavailable online via computer, but is available on mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets and can be downloaded on the App and Google Play stores.

“It is a great tool for near-real time communication and is growing significantly in popularity,” he said.

A survey conducted in Fall 2015 by the University Marketing and Communication department found about 65 percent of freshmen use the application.

“Snapchat is more geared towards a younger generation, at least right now,” Garrido said. “Maybe it will expand in the future.”

Unlike Facebook and Twitter, Snapchat does not offer analytics that helps the University Marketing and Communication department determine its efficiency and student use. This pushed Garrido to question Snapchat as a valid tool in promoting campus life and student involvement.

Shortly after Garrido’s message on the UTRGV Snapchat, he received emails and Snapchat videos of students explaining how the application had a positive impact



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

on their campus life.

“We are still going to continue using it. I just wanted to see if the students really valued it and if they found it useful,” he said. “That is why we wanted to evaluate its usefulness. The response was very positive. We had students say that it helped connect with other students, make new friends and promote campus events.”

Garrido said his team might post several testimonials online at www.utrgv.com this month.

UTRGV has a program called Vaquero Connection that allowed Garrido and his team to visit local high schools to find out the best methods to communicate with future students.

“Eighty percent of high school seniors

that we visited would raise their hands when I asked if they used Snapchat,” Garrido said. “My role is to find ways to talk and engage with the students.”

UTRGV originally wanted to create a Snapchat account in September 2015, but immediately faced a slight problem. A group of students had already created an account under the university’s name.

“We spoke to those students and after that, we got access to the account,” Garrido said. “That is actually very common on other social media platforms.”

Asked if he would follow UTRGV on Snapchat, Masso said, “I didn’t even know [UTRGV] had a Snapchat, but now it’s something I definitely want to look into.”

The university’s Snapchat has 4,000

followers and continues to grow. Students interested in following UTRGV on Snapchat can do so by searching for UT Rio Grande Valley on the application.

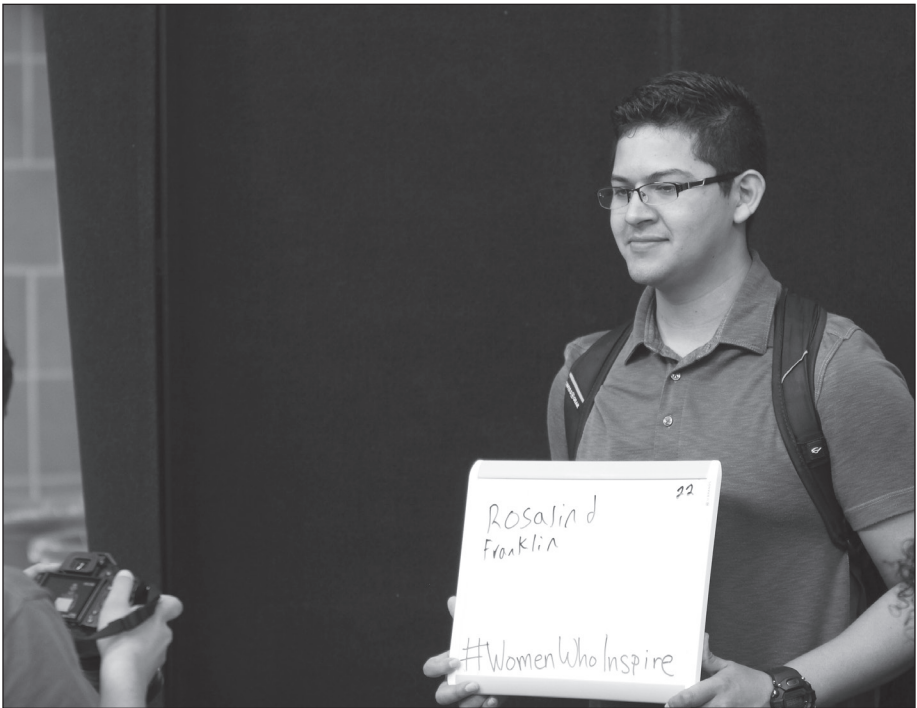
Follow
The Rider
on Snapchat!
@utrgv_therider

Who run the world? Girls



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Mass communication junior Brenda Salinas and senior Emma Soto write down the names of women who inspire them on a whiteboard March 8, as part of the Women’s Day event in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.



Math junior Oscar Campuzano poses for a picture with a whiteboard, in which he wrote “Rosalind Franklin,” during the Women’s Day event March 8 in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. Students were asked to write the names of women who inspire them. Franklin is a British researcher “who in 1952 painstakingly conceived of and captured ‘Photograph 51’ of the ‘B’ form of DNA. It is this photograph, acquired through 100 hours of X-ray exposure from a machine Dr. Franklin herself refined, that revealed the structure of DNA,” according to the Rosalind Franklin University website.

Campus Q & A

What do you think about the possibility of having a football team at UTRGV?



"I think we should have a football team because every other UT System university has a football team, and especially if it's big down here in Texas. Why

shouldn't we have a football team? They should be more open to other sports as well."

Lysette Campos
Early education sophomore



"Me parece bien, creo que va traer más gente para la ciudad. Y es buena idea para la escuela también".

Jaime Rivera
Estudiante de tercer año en kinesiología



"I think it's a good idea. It's going to bring a lot of people down to the Valley, a lot of students. The population is going to increase a lot and it's going to give us something better to do on the weekends."

Ivonne Cano
Biology junior



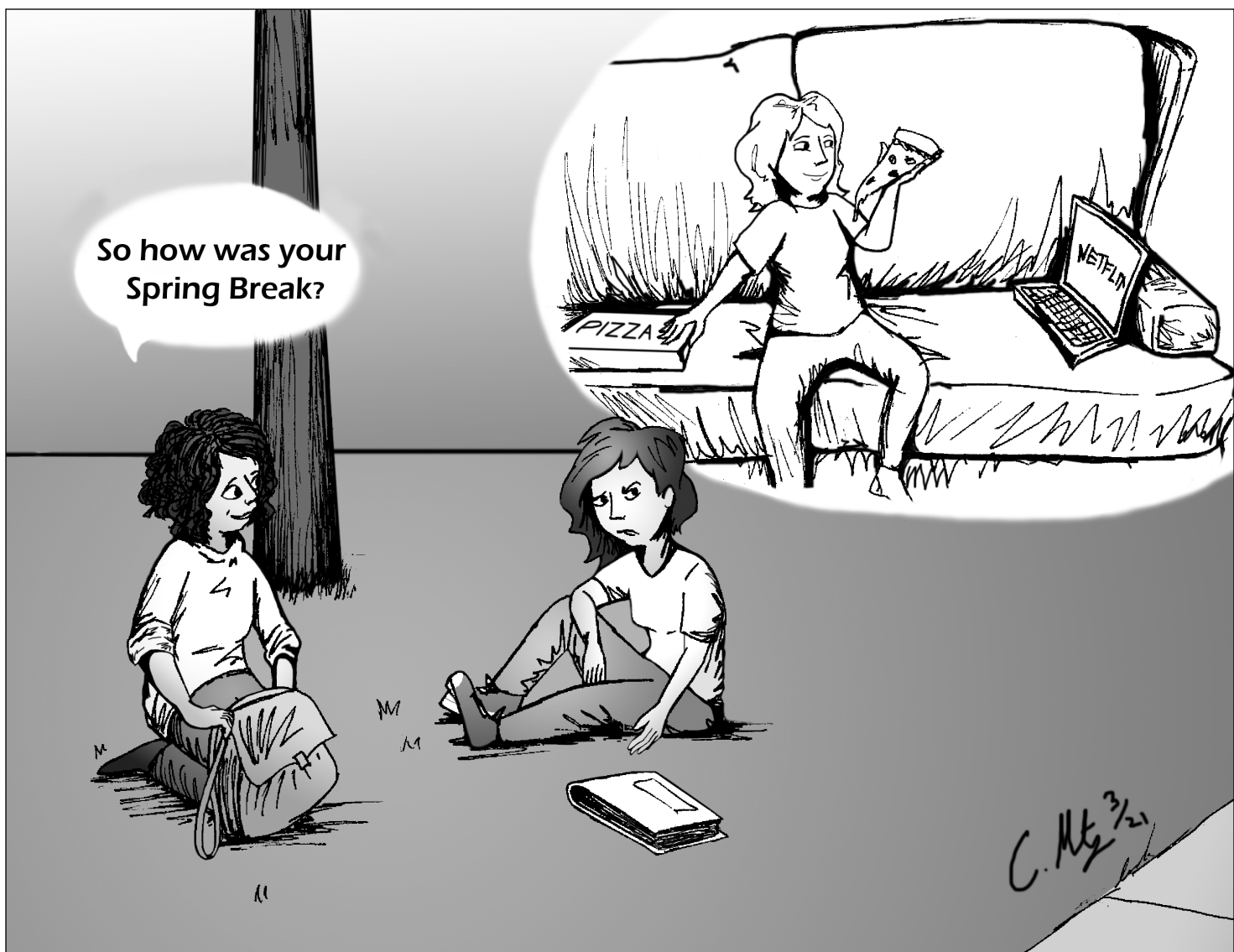
"I think having a football team is both a good and a bad thing. Good, because obviously it gives students a lot more things to do, you know, a lot more activities, bringing everyone

kind of closer together, students and faculty. But also I feel it could be kind of negative because more than likely they'll have the football field in Edinburg and not in Brownsville, and the only reason why I'm saying that is that Edinburg already has a lot of the sport stuff, which is good, but it kind of defeats the whole purpose if we want students to have more things to do [on] the Brownsville campus. It would be more beneficial to have it over here."

Marco Padilla
Biology junior

--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza and Lesley Robles

Visit us at
utrgvrider.com



Bryan Ramos
THE RIDER

Sports have always played a large role in my life. My father is a football coach, his father was a baseball coach and growing up they made sure there was always a ball, bat or racket nearby followed by some sort of coaching or advice. Most of the friendships I built throughout junior high and high school were with others playing or loving the same sports I did.

Being drawn to sports at an early age, some of my first idols were the professional athletes I watched on television, who seemed super human with their athletic ability. As a kid, there was nothing like it.

Watching Peyton Manning take the football field on Sundays--marching his team to victory with his arm and brain,

Appreciate greatness before it's gone

carving up opponents--was amazing.

Seeing Kobe Bryant, this generation's Michael Jordan, soar through the air for spectacular slams, hitting clutch shots against my San Antonio Spurs was heartbreaking, yet captivating.

Witnessing Tim Duncan, the Big Fundamental, be the quiet, humble leader who, let his play speak loudly on the basketball court, lead my favorite team to five championships left me enthralled.

It's hard to remember an NBA and NFL without these three legends of their respective sports. Seriously, Manning has played for 18 years, Duncan for 19 and Bryant for 20.

Earlier this year, Bryant penned an emotional letter announcing his retirement from basketball at the end of the season. Sports fans have treated Bryant harshly, being critical of his play and injuries in addition to his team's recent poor play as his career winds down.

March 7, Manning held a news conference proclaiming this was his last season playing football, riding off into the sunset with a second Super Bowl victory. Many doubted Manning's arm strength the entirety of his final season, questioning if he was good enough to get it done.

Duncan is getting up there in age. His coach, Gregg Popovich, has chosen to rest Duncan on multiple occasions, simply listing his injury as "Old." He is yet to announce a decision regarding his future, but it has been speculated for the last several years that every season could be his last.

Sports fans, and people in general, can tend to be shortsighted when it comes to certain topics. As a Spurs fan, it was ingrained in me to dislike Bryant and the Lakers as they were the Spurs' biggest rival. I hated everything he did on the court because it was counterproductive to my goal, a Spurs win. In doing so, I selfishly ignored the greatness of Bryant and failed to realize the magnitude of what he was doing on the basketball court. I didn't learn to appreciate Bryant's talent and impact until it began to slip away.

Now, as they begin to retire, it may be too late to grasp the greatness that athletes like Bryant, Manning and Duncan displayed on a nightly basis for nearly two decades.

So, when you yourself are doing, watching or listening to something, learn to appreciate all of it--the good, the bad and the greatness--because it'll all be over before you know it.

Submit a Letter to the Editor



Letters policy: *The Rider* encourages letters but does not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to edit for grammar and content. Letters for *The Rider* may be sent to utrgvrider@gmail.com. All letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of the author. Opinions expressed in *The Rider* are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Rider* or UTRGV administrators.



Follow us

@UTRGV_TheRider

Like us on Facebook



Vaquero Ice Cream Bar



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Accounting junior Alexis Olivares holds his free cup of ice cream as criminal justice sophomore Luis Chavarria pours chocolate syrup. Every first Sunday and Monday of the month the Student Union provides free ice cream for students. The Student Union provided free ice cream on March 7 at the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

WOMEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“We feel it is important to encourage them to follow their dreams and that there is no obstacle in their path that can stop them from doing whatever it is they’d like to do with their life.”

At both campuses there will be an opportunity for students to have dinner and engage in conversation with faculty and administration. The first event taking place this week is “Having It All? Dinner with Professors at UTRGV” at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the University Center Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. At this dinner there will be several tables of six in which guest speakers will share their experiences as women with a Ph.D. and their journey to achieving successful careers.

On the Brownsville campus, the “Women’s Leadership Luncheon” will be held from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday in Salón Cassia and will feature guest speaker Juliet V. García, executive director of the University of Texas Americas Institute and former UT Brownsville president.

The UT System announced March 9 that García will join the system as senior adviser to the chancellor for community, national and global engagement. She will work “as an ambassador, participating with leaders and organizations throughout Texas, the nation and internationally to convey, clarify and advocate for the UT System and the chancellor’s priorities,” according to a system news release.

Leal said many students may not fully understand the full scale of possibilities that are available to them and that setting up the opportunity to discuss this with successful women leaders can inspire great things.

“As an undergraduate student I would see all these people out in the community doing all these amazing

things and I wouldn’t picture myself as being one of those individuals,” Leal said. “It’s not until you get that one-on-one interaction and see maybe their struggles and their story is similar to yours and they’re successful, so it can help you to see yourself in those roles as well.”

For book lovers, there will be a discussion of “The Woman Who Would Be King: Hatshepsut’s Rise to Power in Ancient Egypt,” a biography of the longest-reigning female pharaoh, written by Kara Cooney. Twenty-five free copies of the book will be given out to attendees. This event takes place at 5 p.m. Friday in the University Center Cenizo Room on the Edinburg campus.

The Edinburg campus is also hosting the Women’s Leadership Panel at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the University Center Ballroom. This event will feature many successful women from different professions throughout the Rio Grande Valley. The speakers will discuss their approach to different leadership styles, challenges they have faced as professional women, local culture and advice for future community leaders.

The last event organized in honor of Women’s History Month is the Self-Defense Course, taking place at the Casa Bella Clubhouse on the Brownsville campus. Police Training Officer Antonio Zarzoza will teach young women how to stay safe and defend themselves. The training will be informal and hands-on. Comfortable clothing is recommended. The time and date are to be announced.

“We have tried to organize an event that will appeal to the interests of every kind of student,” Leal said. “We really encourage them to take advantage of these events so that they can really make the most out of the experience.

FRATERNITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

[to the] four individuals that admitted to firing the weapons,” Sotelo said. “The investigation has been closed. In reality, we didn’t know what was the reasoning behind the shootings. ... From what [the students] were saying, they didn’t think about it. They didn’t think it through.

“We’re not going to take any action other than the citations that were issued. There’s nothing further to investigate. They told us they were having some sort of initiation ceremony. They had, like, robes and things like that there. Things that, I guess, adequately describe any kind of ceremony that they’d be holding.”

Although some media outlets called the incident an armed standoff, Sotelo said he would not use that term to describe the incident.

“To me, it’s not that accurate of a term,” the chief said. “I can understand where it may fit the characteristics of a standoff because at that point our corporal started to make contact with the people inside the ranch with the vehicle’s PA system. He was issuing commands for people to make their way to the front of the property so that we can have access to talking to somebody there.”

He said 54 individuals were on the property during the incident and all claimed to be students and Kappa Sigma

CLUB SPOTLIGHT



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Members of Psi Chi include Yuridia Muñoz (front row, from left), Leo Gonzalez, Isabel Peña and Marina Vasquez. Back row: Jose Rios and Jeremy Thompson.

Name: Psi Chi, The International Honor Society in Psychology. UTRGV Chapter.

Purpose: To encourage, stimulate and maintain excellence in scholarship of the individual members in all fields, particularly in psychology, and to advance the science of psychology.

President: Leo Gonzalez

Vice President: Isabel Peña

Secretary: Jeremy Thompson

Treasurer: Marina Vazquez

Adviser: Grant Benham, a

psychological science professor

Activities: Socials, fundraisers and volunteer work

Meetings: 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays in SBSC 101

Membership requirements: Must have a 3.0 grade-point average or higher and have completed nine hours of psychology classes. One-time \$70 chapter fee.

For more information, email: leo.gonzalez01@utrgv.edu

--Compiled by Lesley Robles

SGA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Brownsville and one from Edinburg, as well as Assistant Director of Student Rights and Responsibilities David Marquez.

The election, which will start at 8 a.m. April 5 and end at midnight April 7, will be conducted via the MyUTRGV website.

“When a student logs in and uses their credentials, the ballot that is assigned to them will automatically be what they have available to take,” Olivarez said.

Students, however, will only be able to vote for certain candidates depending on their corresponding campus and college.

“In the election guidelines there are specifications for which students vote for which positions,” Olivarez said. “Your ballot and another college’s will look different from mine, but we will all have the opportunity to vote for the same executive tickets.”

An executive ticket consists of the candidates for president and a vice president from each campus.

Outgoing SGA President Alberto Adame emphasized the importance of these elections.

“What I’m most excited about is that ... we’re going to have a campaign that is based on actual results and actual accountability of what my administration [did],” Adame said. “Now we’re going to have candidates that are going to be running their campaigns with more knowledge about the [Student Government] Association and of what students all across the Valley want and need.”

Adame said he will only get involved by promoting the elections so people know

members.

“The department received about 20 phone calls regarding shots fired,” Sotelo said. “People were relaying that there was multiple calibers being heard. Officers on duty mobilized and began searching the area to see if we could spot the location of the shots. They were guided toward that specific ranch-style property.

“Once they got there, our corporal, using the spotlight, he was spotlighting the back portion of the ranch, which we had somewhat access to the back of the property. Anyway, he spotlights the area and notices about 20 subjects there. He activates at that time the units red and blue lights. Upon doing so, there was three

that student government is here for them.

Among the candidates is Ernesto Fariás, a freshman political science major running for senator-at-large for the Brownsville campus.

“I’ve been with the First Year Internship program in SGA, and I have seen the hard work that the senators and that the executive branch does in the school,” Farias said. “I would like to be part of it and help the student community in the university.”

Denisse Molina, vice president for the Brownsville campus and candidate for president, also highlighted the key role that student voters play in the school.

“In the end, these people will be representing you throughout the entire year. [It’s] very important because they are shaping our university ... in a better way,” Molina said.

Molina said she is running for office because there is still a lot of work to be done.

“This past year I got the opportunity to serve as the vice president for the Brownsville campus,” she said. “I noticed there is still a lot of work to be done in our university, so that really motivated me to continue doing what I have been doing this year.”

The SGA is there to help, Olivarez said.

“I would like [students] to know that student government is the voice of the student body,” she said. “If they have concerns or suggestions, members of SGA can partner with them to help address these concerns.”

to four shots that rang out from within the ranch.”

Sotelo and his officers received backup from the Mission Police Department, Hidalgo County Sheriff’s Office and the Texas Department of Public Safety, which provided a helicopter.

“Once the helicopter got there, they spotlighted into the ranch and they noticed that there was 40 to 50 people. ... [The ranch] is a private property. It’s in the 1400 block of North Glasscock. The owner of the property wasn’t there. One of the students is nephew to the owner.”

Sotelo said there were no injuries.

Code of conduct applies to all



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Trisha Maldonado
THE RIDER

Like any other student organization on the UTRGV campus, fraternities and sororities are expected to follow a code of conduct.

Douglas Stoves, associate dean of Student Rights and Responsibilities, said the rules of conduct for any organization regardless of having an affiliation with a fraternity or sorority are outlined in the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's student code of conduct.

Stoves said the code of conduct is not Greek specific.

The code is in accordance with the university's honor code. The Vaquero Honor Code consists of three principles: honesty, integrity and respect. These principles apply to all members of the university community.

"There are additional things each organization has to meet," Stoves said. "For instance, participating in risk management and other trainings that they have available for all organizations."

He said there are certain elements the trainings have to include, such as Title IX issues or sexual assault awareness and alcohol.

Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities, according to UTRGV's Handbook of Operating Procedures.

"It's all the areas that have been identified for organizations as particular risks," said the associate dean of Student Rights and Responsibilities. "If they are a member of a national [Greek] organization, there is probably an additional training that they have to do as

well, but that is outside of the university."

Rolando Gonzalez, student program adviser for Fraternity and Sorority Life, said every organization has to abide by the H.O.P., or Handbook of Operations.

Gonzalez said every organization must go through V-Link for re-registration and risk management.

"They have different procedures that they have to complete every academic year and go through the process of verification," he said, adding that if the organization does not comply it is "frozen."

"They have to meet with us to get unfrozen," Gonzalez said. "They visit our office and they meet one on one with the organization coordinator."

Gonzalez said the consequences of not following the code of conduct depends on what the handbook instructs.

"We always refer back to the handbook," he said. "For the most part, we will take precautionary stances on it, but it is never one person making the decision. We work collaboratively and we determine what the next procedures

See CONDUCT, Page 8

Ena Capucion
NEWS EDITOR

UTRGV graduate student Miguel Venegas has been a part of Sigma Lambda Beta since Spring 2012. He first joined during his time at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. When Venegas first started looking for fraternities to join, nothing really seemed to appeal to him the way Sigma Lambda Beta did.

"I've really, really enjoyed it. ... Being an only child, I kind of always wanted to know what it was like to have brothers," said the interdisciplinary and Mexican American studies graduate student. "When I saw Sigma Lambda Beta, the thing that really

sororities across the U.S. These Greek organizations are divided into four councils: the Interfraternity Council (IFC) that houses fraternities, the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPC) that houses sororities, the Multicultural Greek Council (MGC) that houses both and the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations (NALFO) that also houses both.

When Venegas began attending UTRGV last fall, his original plan was to dial down on his participation in Sigma Lambda Beta--or consider himself inactive--and focus on

his



Above: Members of Greek organizations at UTRGV legacy institution UT Pan American are shown at a Habitat for Humanity project in 2013. COURTESY PHOTO

interested me about them is the fact that they are huge supporters of the DREAM Act, nationally. ... I'm very politically oriented and [it's] something that hits close to home to me, family members and friends back here in the Rio Grande Valley. So, for me, it was something I felt was really important."

Sigma Lambda Beta is one of 15 Greek organizations at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. There are nine fraternities and six sororities.

Nationally, there are more than 100 fraternities and

studies.

However, he is now the vice president of the fraternity. The chapter has worked together with the sorority Delta Tau Lambda, Heads-Up and Student Health Services for World AIDS Day.

"It's that sense of brotherhood that brought me back," Venegas said. "[For World AIDS Day,] all four of us worked together to really bring awareness to HIV, STDs and pretty much really trying to break the stigma that some people face when they have this virus. It doesn't change who they are and

Joining a new family

Members talk about their experience in the Greek community

Andrea Torres
THE RIDER

Georgeana Treviño, a kinesiology freshman who was unsure of what the university life would have in store for her, felt it was a challenge transitioning into being a college student.

"One of the first friends that I made on campus, unbeknownst to me, was an [Alpha Sigma Tau] lady, she was a member," Treviño said. "She just seemed, like, she just had her life together. Like, adjusting to college, for me, was very difficult. Was very, very hard. I met her last semester--this semester she just asked me to go to one event. ... I was very up for it. I was, like, 'Yes, let's go.' I was just going to things with them because they became my friends."

Treviño is trying to become an official AST sorority sister on the Edinburg campus. Including

the possible new members, the sorority consists of 47 women.

Cindy Ortega Ramos, president of the sorority, said the organization's goal is to "empower women to become more independent, to be themselves and to feel comfortable within themselves."

"We like to praise their individuality and give back to the community," Ortega Ramos said.

The initiation process for new members includes classes in which they are taught sorority traditions and history. They must take the national exam, which comes from the headquarters and is required for initiation into the sorority, the president said.

UTRGV has six sororities and nine fraternities in Edinburg and only one co-ed fraternity in Brownsville, Alpha Psi Lambda.

"For Alpha Psi Lambda our

basis are family and unity,"

said Vanessa Soto, president of the fraternity. "We are national and Latino based, but it doesn't mean that we don't accept other ethnicities."

Alpha Psi Lambda has 14 members. Malleny Guajardo, a law and justice studies senior, is a new member.

"One of the things that really caught my attention was that it was a co-ed fraternity," Guajardo said. "I liked it because it gave me a sense of working not just with women but with also males."

Guajardo, who was initiated in Spring 2015, said the process was interesting.

"You get to know your line

See PLEDGE, Page 8



Members of the Delta Zeta sorority.

that's one thing we really try to promote [as well as] safer sex practices. Sometimes, I feel, in our Latino community in the [Valley] we don't talk about these subjects like sex. It's [seen as] taboo. I feel like college is kind of a place where it's a safe space to talk about these subjects."

Sigma Lambda Beta has eight members and recruits twice a year, one during the first month of fall and another during the first month of spring. To qualify, there are two sets of different requirements for incoming college freshmen and a non-first semester student. Incoming freshmen must have a high school grade-point average of 3.0, a résumé and an optional letter of recommendation. Otherwise, students must have at least a 2.5 GPA, a résumé, a formal interview and a letter of recommendation. The dues for this fraternity are \$150 per semester.

UTRGV sophomore Monica Rodriguez joined Delta Zeta last semester when a sister sat next to her during test day in her anatomy class. As more of an extrovert, Rodriguez struck up a conversation with her and was later asked if Rodriguez would ever consider joining a sorority.

"At the time, I was going through a sticky situation with my best friends--we stopped hanging out and stuff," Rodriguez said. "After the test, I sat with her and a few other Delta Zetas and we sat and talked for three hours. I fell in love with it. And now I'm here, a year later, and I'm vice president."

Delta Zeta has 40 members and also recruits twice a year, once during the first week of fall and again during the first week of spring. During the fall, it's considered a formal recruitment and Delta Zeta teams up with Alpha Sigma Tau, another Panhellenic Greek chapter and recruits together--without ever disclosing which sorority they belong to. During the spring, the informal recruitment involves Delta Zeta sisters going out and

individually finding potential sisters to join. When it comes to determining who joins, there are two different committees, one for each semester. For the fall, one member from each class will go through a process and decide who qualifies as a Delta Zeta. For the spring, the officers will serve as a committee and determine who qualifies.

Between Delta Zeta and Alpha Sigma Tau, they must meet a recruitment quota that is currently at about 40. If Delta Zeta doesn't meet its quota during the first couple of weeks of recruitment, the rest of the semester is considered a continuous open bidding, where Delta Zeta members look for potential new members and determine their worth as a Delta Zeta.

The financial commitment is a \$275 badge upon initiation and a \$55 monthly fee. For the badge, Rodriguez said a group of women could fundraise and split the money among those who participated.

As new members, Delta Zetas go through a six-to-12-week process that includes learning the Greek alphabet, the history of the sorority, online modules and a weekly mandatory meeting. The members must

See RITES,

Page 10



COURTESY PHOTO

Above: Alpha Psi Lambda



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Sigma Lambda Gamma in early 2015.



Members of Sigma Lambda Gamma include S. J. Zavala (front row, from left), Mitzel Hernandez, Jennifer Cantu and Georgia Vargas. Middle row: Claudia Hernandez, Damaris Rivera, Arlene Cantu, Yolada Escobedo and Judith Sanchez. Back row: Lorena Cancino, Kassandra Placencio and Monica Gutierrez.

COURTESY PHOTO

Sorority leadership in action

Greek social societies build bonds through fundraising efforts

Marissa Rodriguez
THE RIDER

Rice, beans, and deep conversations. The nights spent preparing for barbecue fundraisers are the most memorable to Delta Zeta sorority sister, Cathalina Osornia. She never thought she would find a support system and lifelong friends while seasoning chicken at 3 in the morning.

There are 15 Greek organizations at UTRGV, the majority of which are *social* chapters that do not limit membership to a specific major and provide social opportunities that promote personal growth and community service. Greek organizations have storied histories, each with their own unique tradition and code of honor, which members are made to uphold. To Osornia and many other Greek members, their organization is a lot more than just cheap barbecue plates.

Clarissa Laura Rodriguez, president of the largest sorority at UTRGV and a pre-medical student, recognizes the difficulty students outside the sorority have understanding Greek society.

"It's difficult to understand [sororities and fraternities] from the outside looking in," Rodriguez said. "And it's difficult to explain from the inside looking out."

The Delta Zeta sorority has 40 active members and six pledges that are to be initiated this year. As a part of the National Panhellenic Conference, an umbrella organization founded in 1902, they are one of 26 women's sororities in the country. As a social chapter, they host events, fundraise for both local and national organizations, and work on interpersonal networking by establishing "better connections" and communication with one another, Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez, Delta Zeta president, joined the sorority as a freshman and claims that it has been an enriching experience that has helped her in her professional and social life.

"It has highlighted my best attributes but also has decreased things that I should be getting rid of," she said.

The sisters' focus on philanthropy by raising funds to support the Starkey Hearing Foundation, an organization that donates hearing aids to people in need, and the Painted Turtle Camp, a California-based program that allows children that require special medical attention to attend a camp session free of charge. Delta Zeta sisters also gather donations for Valley View Middle School and the Driscoll Children's Hospital. Each sister must complete 40 hours of community service and 50 hours of donation volunteering per semester, in addition to their fundraising and group efforts.

The sum of Delta Zeta's philanthropic efforts

See SOCIAL, Page 10

THE RIDER

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Jesus Sanchez

NEWS EDITOR

Ena Capucion

SPORTS EDITOR

Nathaniel Mata

PHOTO EDITOR

Mario Gonzalez

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Rick R. Ramirez

REPORTERS

Andrea Torres

Monica Gudiño

Trisha Maldonado

Felipe Zamorano

Bryan Ramos

Marissa Rodriguez

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Michelle Espinoza

Lesley Robles

Ana Cahuiche

Gabriel Mata

Jesus Esparza

COPY EDITORS

Oscar Castillo

Jonathan Baldwin

Andy De Llano

WEBMASTER

Sharath Aitha

CARTOONIST

Clarissa Martinez

ADVERTISING SALES

MANAGER

Maria Rincon

ADVERTISING SALES

REPRESENTATIVES

Marc Peña

Manoj Veluvolu

STUDENT MEDIA DIRECTOR

Azenett Cornejo

STUDENT MEDIA PROGRAM

ADVISER

Carina Alcantara

ADMINISTRATIVE

ASSISTANTS

Anita Reyes

Ana Sanchez

CONTACT

EDINBURG CAMPUS

1201 West University Dr.

ARHU 170

Phone: (956) 665-2541

Fax: (956) 665-7122

BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS

1 West University Blvd.

Student Union 1.16

Phone: (956) 882-5143

Fax: (956) 882-5176

Email: utrgvrider@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Game-A-Palooza

The Student Union invites students to **Game-A-Palooza**, where students can play newly released games Street Fighter V (PS4), Killer Instinct (Xbox One) and Super Smash Bros. (Wii U). The event will take place from noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday in the Student Union Game Room on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Game Room tournaments

An **Air Hockey Tournament** will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. Wednesday in the Student Union Game Room on the Edinburg campus. VBucks will be awarded to top-place finishers. For more information, call 665-7989.

Women in Leadership

Jamie Schanbaum and **Patsy Silva Schanbaum** will present their story of “perseverance, hope and change” as part of the **2016 Women in Leadership Speaker Series** from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Friday at Valley Regional Medical Center, located at 100 E. Alton Gloor Blvd. The event is sponsored by the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce. Breakfast will be served. Admission is \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. Deadline to register is today. Space is limited. For more information, visit brownsvillechamber.com

Janice Bryant Howroyd

The **National Society of Leadership and Success** will sponsor a video broadcast featuring **Janice Bryant Howroyd**, founder and CEO of the ACT 1 Group, who will talk about “**Creating Exponential Growth in Your Life**” at 6 p.m. March 29 in the Main Building’s Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus. ACT 1 Group is the largest privately held woman and minority owned workforce management company in the U.S. For more information, visit www.societyleadership.org.

Union Canvas

The Student Union will host a **Union Canvas** from 6 to 8 p.m. March 30 in PlainsCapital Bank Student Union’s El Comedor on the Brownsville campus. Students will paint the Vaquero logo under the instruction of Alejandro

Macias, a lecturer in the Art Department. Materials will be provided at the site. Seating is limited. Students may sign up at the Office for Student Involvement. For more information, call 882-5111.

Health and Wellness Series

A presentation, titled “**Sexual Response Cycle**,” will take place from noon to 1 p.m. March 30 in Cortez Hall 118 on the Brownsville campus. The session is part of the **Health and Wellness Series** sponsored by the **Counseling Center**. For more information, call 882-3897.

Adviser Workshop Series

A session, titled “**Generating Involvement**,” will take place from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. April. 1 in Main Building room 1.502 on the Brownsville campus. The session is part of the **Adviser Workshop Series** sponsored by the **Office of Student Involvement**. For more information, call 882-5111.

The Gentleman’s Code

Counseling and Psychological Services will host a free session, titled “**Relationships: How to Get It Right**,” at noon April. 13 in Cortez Hall 118 on the Brownsville campus. The males-only session will take place the second Wednesday of every month. For more information, call 882-3897.

Volunteers needed

The **Cameron County Children’s Advocacy Center** is looking for volunteers for its San Benito and Brownsville locations. The center is a nonprofit organization that advocates for and serves child victims of abuse. For more information, call **Elsa Garcia**, volunteer coordinator/community educator, at 361-3313.

Graduation application deadlines

Students who plan to graduate in Fall 2016 must submit their application by May 1. For more information, contact the **Graduate College** at 665-3661 or email gradcollege@utrgv.edu.

Free flu shots

UTRGV **Health Services** will administer **free flu shots** for students from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at its clinics, located

in Cortez Hall 237 on the Brownsville campus and at 613 N. Sugar Rd. on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call Office Assistant **Beverly Estrada** at 882-3896.

Peace of mind yoga sessions

Learn how to manage stress levels and do various types of yoga exercises from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday on the Brownsville Student Union lawn. The event is sponsored by the **Student Government Association**. For more information, call 882-5937.

Meetings

Social-confidence group

The UTRGV **Counseling Center** hosts a social-confidence group, “**Reveal Yourself**,” from 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays in Cortez Hall 118 on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 882-3897.

G.A.L.S.

A group therapy session for females by females, titled “**Growing and Loving Ourselves**” (G.A.L.S.), takes place from noon to 1 p.m. each Monday in Cortez Hall 220 on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call the **UTRGV Counseling Center** at 882-3897.

LGBTQ Group

The **LGBTQ Group** meets at 4 p.m. each Tuesday in University Center 306A on the Edinburg campus. Meetings are facilitated by experienced counselors and discussion is driven by concerns and needs of the group. For more information, call the **UTRGV Counseling Center** at 665-2574.

--Compiled by Monica Gudiño



POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between March 2 and 7.



March 2

2:31 p.m.: A Physical Plant staff member reported one of the department’s vehicles was taken to a mechanic shop for service because it was experiencing mechanical problems. He was told by the mechanic that there was a strange mixture of an unknown substance inside the vehicle’s gasoline tank. The repair cost \$575. The case is under investigation.

8:50 p.m.: A student reported that someone had placed a Walmart bag with rotten fish bait in the bed of his truck. He did not have any idea who might have done it and does not have issues with anyone.

March 4

12:57 a.m.: University Police contacted two students, both women’s basketball players, at an apartment in The Village on the Edinburg campus. The apartment door was open and there was a bottle and box of wine in plain view. One of the players was of legal drinking age and the other was not. The minor was issued a

citation for consumption of alcohol by a minor and both were referred to the dean of students.

12:43 p.m.: A student at the library appeared to be passing in and out of consciousness and displaying signs of intoxication as seen by a university officer. After searching the student, officers found usable amounts of synthetic marijuana in his possession. He was transported to the Edinburg Municipal Jail and booked on charges of public intoxication, resisting arrest, possession of a controlled substance and failure to ID.

4 p.m.: University Police made contact with a student who reported that she applied for a job through the Career Services Connection at UTRGV where the job required her do personal errands and make payments on personal accounts for her employer. She stated that her employer gave her a check and advised her to deposit it into her personal account and once it was deposited, her employer

would tell her which payments to make. The student went to her bank and attempted to deposit it in her account but the cashier advised her it was a fake check. The case is under investigation.

March 5

7:31 a.m.: University Police responded when a 2-year-old child bumped his head on a table in the Fine Art Center on the Edinburg campus. The officer reported that there was no redness or swelling as a result of the child bumping his head.

March 7

8:12 a.m.: An employee of Jazzman’s Café in the University Library reported receiving two counterfeit \$20 bills as payment from two students. The transactions raised the suspicion of the employee as they occurred within a short time frame. Jazzman’s Café did not accept the bills as payment. The students were identified, the bills were seized and they are pending submission to the local U.S. Secret Service office for verification.

--Compiled by Andrea Torres

they keep you on top of things. I feel, like besides [belonging] to something, like, I’m doing something for the community.”

Part of the requirements to join the sorority is for the members to complete community service hours and get involved in the campus community as well.

For more information about Greek sororities and fraternities at UTRGV, visit Vlink at utpa.collegiatelink.net.

Visit us at
utrgvrider.com

CONDUCT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

are, according to the Handbook of Operations.”

The university is working toward creating a new fraternity and sorority life handbook.

Gonzalez said the university doesn’t have the exact count on the number of conduct violations by Greek organizations or members that have been reported to the office.

PLEDGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

members even more,” she said. “You may not know them, but at the end of the process you know them completely. You know the type of people they are, you know that they’ll always be there for you.”

Treviño recommends those who are interested in Greek community life to consider it.

“It’s these friends that you’re going to come extremely close to,” she said. “It’s so wonderful. I’m so organized now,

En sus marcas, listos, a hacer campaña

Candidatos se preparan para elecciones de SGA

Felipe Zamorano
THE RIDER

Las campañas para las elecciones de la Asociación de Gobierno Estudiantil (SGA) empiezan el domingo, con al menos 25 candidatos buscando una posición.

El comité de elecciones llevó a cabo dos sesiones informativas en cada campus el 10 de marzo para informar a los candidatos sobre las reglas y procedimientos de la campaña y la elección.

Diez candidatos en Edinburg y por al menos 16 en Brownsville asistieron a las sesiones.

En las juntas, las co-asesoras de SGA Cindy Mata, directora de Actividades Estudiantiles, y Delma Olivarez, decana asociada interina de Participación Estudiantil y directora de Liderazgo y Mentoría, explicaron las directrices establecidas por el comité de elecciones al cual ambas pertenecen.

Mata dijo que el comité establece las directrices y supervisa la elección para asegurarse que todo sea justo y funcione sin problemas.

Además Mata y Olivarez, el comité de elecciones está compuesto por un representante estudiantil de Brownsville y uno de Edinburg, al igual que el Subdirector de Derechos y Responsabilidades Estudiantiles David Márquez.

La elección, que comenzará a las 8 a.m. del 5 de abril y acabará a la medianoche del 7 de abril, será conducida vía el sitio web MyUTRGV.

“Cuando un estudiante inicie sesión y use su información, la boleta que le está asignada será automáticamente lo que tendrá disponible”, dijo Olivarez.

Los estudiantes, sin embargo, solo podrán votar por ciertos candidatos dependiendo de su campus y facultad correspondiente.

“En las directrices de la elección hay especificaciones sobre cuáles estudiantes votan por cuáles posiciones”, dijo Olivarez. “Tu boleta y la de otra facultad se verán diferente a la mía, pero todos tendremos la oportunidad para votar por las mismas planillas ejecutivas”.

Una planilla ejecutiva consiste de candidatos a presidente y a vicepresidente



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Delma Olivarez, decana asociada interina de Participación Estudiantil y directora de Liderazgo y Mentoría, explica las reglas de campaña a los candidatos durante una sesión informativa en el campus de Edinburg el 10 de marzo.

de cada campus.

El presidente de SGA saliente Alberto Adame enfatizó la importancia de estas elecciones.

“Lo que más me emociona es que ... vamos a tener una campaña que esté basada en resultados reales y responsabilidad real de lo que hizo mi administración”, dijo Adame. “Ahora vamos a tener a candidatos que estarán llevando a cabo sus campañas con más conocimiento sobre la Asociación de Gobierno Estudiantil y de lo que los estudiantes a través del Valle quieren y necesitan”.

Adame dijo que solo se va a involucrar promoviendo la elecciones para que la gente sepa que el gobierno estudiantil está aquí para ayudarlos.

Entre los candidatos se encuentra Ernesto Farías, un estudiante de primer año de ciencias políticas corriendo para senador por acumulación del campus de Brownsville.

“He estado con el programa de Pasantía de Primer Año con el SGA, y he visto el trabajo duro que los senadores y la rama ejecutiva hacen en esta escuela”, dijo Farías. “Me gustaría ser parte de ello y ayudar a la comunidad estudiantil en la universidad”.

Denisse Molina, vicepresidenta por el campus de Brownsville y candidata a presidenta, también subrayó el papel clave que los votantes estudiantiles tienen en la escuela.

“Al final, estas personas te estarán representando a lo largo de todo el año. Es muy importante porque están dando forma a nuestra universidad en una

mejor manera”, Molina dijo.

Ella dijo que está corriendo por el puesto porque aún queda mucho trabajo por hacer.

“Este año pasado tuve la oportunidad de servir como vicepresidenta para el campus de Brownsville”, dijo Molina. “Me di cuenta que aún hay mucho trabajo por hacer en nuestra universidad, así que eso en realidad me motivó para continuar haciendo lo que he estado haciendo este año”.

El SGA está aquí para ayudar, dijo Olivarez.

“Me gustaría que los estudiantes sepan que el gobierno estudiantil es la voz del cuerpo estudiantil”, dijo ella. “Si tienen preocupaciones o sugerencias, los miembros del SGA pueden asociarse con ellos para ayudar a abordar estas preocupaciones”.



Rodrigo Gonzalez, quien está corriendo para presidente del SGA, escucha mientras Delma Olivarez, decana asociada interina de Participación Estudiantil y directora de Liderazgo y Mentoría, informa a los candidatos sobre las reglas de campaña el 10 de marzo.

GREEK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

pace and everyone getting back into an academic schedule we want to have that,” he said.

Today there will be a flag football game at 6 p.m. in the UTRGV Baseball Stadium.

On Tuesday, Student Involvement will collaborate with the Campus Programming Board for a Field Day from noon to 1:30 p.m. on North Quad in Edinburg. At 6 p.m. Tuesday, organizations can show their pride during the baseball game between the UTRGV Vaqueros and the Texas State University Bobcats in the UTRGV Baseball Stadium for \$2 Tuesday/Greek Night. Admission is free for students.

At 6 p.m. Wednesday, there will be a Beach Volleyball Tournament at the UREC on the Edinburg campus.

Greek Week will wrap up with a talent show at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Student Union Theater in Edinburg.

“No matter which chapter you belong

to, whether it’s a fraternity or sorority, you come together as one and it’s basically the best time in your undergraduate year,” said Clarissa Laura Rodriguez, an English senior and president of the Delta Zeta sorority.

The organization that wins the trophy won’t be revealed until the end of the semester during the Greek Gala.

“We don’t want for it to be about the trophy,” Gonzalez said. “It’s not just about the competition during that week, it’s more about the spirit and having that good clean fun and be social with each other.”

Troy Olson, a chemistry junior and president of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, said Greek Week “allows us to show them all these philanthropies that we are doing work for, activities that we get to do.”

Tau Kappa Epsilon has raised money this academic year for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

For more information about Greek Week, call the Office of Student Involvement at 665-2660.

Visítenos en línea en
utrgvrider.com

RITES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

also be a part of one other organization that can also count for their volunteer hours.

Greek Week, which started Sunday, includes a variety of activities such as flag football, tug of war, quiz bowl, beach volleyball and a talent show. Each chapter signs up for what it would like to participate in. According to Rodriguez, Delta Zeta has been the reigning champion for about three years.

Both chapters refused to disclose their initiation process.

“Our [initiation] process is our own,” Venegas of Sigma Lambda Beta said. “[They are] rituals that have been handed down to us since we were founded, so for us, it’s like we don’t want to give out that information because it’s close to our hearts. It’s something only brothers of our organization know and something that we hold a lot of pride to.”

Neither Sigma Lambda Beta or Delta Zeta participate in hazing, or the practice of activities that involve abuse or harassment as a form of initiation into a Greek chapter.

“We are an anti-hazing fraternity. ... With the word hazing, it’s a very problematic word,” Venegas said. “It’s a very negative word that’s automatically associated with Greek organizations. ... We don’t haze, we don’t believe in it. We don’t believe in belittling our new members. We really want to bring you up and reinforce the strong suits you already have.”

To ensure that none of the Greek

organizations participate in hazing, Rolando Gonzalez, student program adviser for Fraternity and Sorority Life, said Greek organizations are required to renew their chapters every academic year and have to fill out general risk management forms as well as organization forms.

“The chapters are held up to certain standards, so they have the handbook of operations and they have the student [organization] handbook and later on within the semester we’re actually going to have the UTRGV Greek handbook,” said Gonzalez, a former member of Phi Iota Alpha. “So, those are the guidelines that are set forth by the university. So, when students and officers sign off on the risk management completions or re-register their organizations, that is where we are guaranteeing that they are agreeing to follow and abide by those rules. ... If we see that they are not following or are not committing to [the rules], there are repercussions for those chapters.”

Gonzalez said Texas has the strictest hazing law.

“We actually had a documentary that highlights how hazing can occur in other instances, but unfortunately, Greek life is the one that’s bestowed with the negativity of it all,” Gonzalez said. “[Yet] it happens in high schools, sporting events, bands [and] lots of different groups. I think it starts with people losing sight of what the purpose of the organization is for. I don’t think it’s a part of Greek life, it’s just something that has been thrown on us.”

one of the few facilities in the Rio Grande Valley that is able to treat breast cancer patients.

Of more than 130 other fundraising entities nationwide, their chapter raised the most monetary donations.

“Sigma Lambda Gamma’s efforts towards [their] philanthropies are continuously growing and as a chapter [they] cannot wait to see their development and significant impacts [they] will have on [the] communities of the Rio Grande Valley,” Rios said.

The Sigma Lambda Gamma sisters aim to become young “Women of Distinction,” Rios said, who “encourage young women like [them] to dare to dream their biggest dreams and achieve their highest goals.”

Delta Zeta’s and Sigma Lambda Gamma’s membership has increased exponentially in the last two years. For more information on their future events or fundraisers, their respective Facebook pages are frequently updated.

SOCIAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

efforts is best defined in its creed which Rodriguez proudly recited from memory.

“To those whom my life may touch in slight measure, may I give graciously of what is mine,” she said.

The 2015 winner of UTRGV Sorority of the Year, Sigma Lambda Gamma, has 22 members who also strive to uphold the goals and integrity that their organization promotes. Their national philanthropies include fundraising for breast cancer awareness and the federal TRiO outreach programs, which help disadvantaged high school students achieve higher education.

Julissa Rios, SLG president and a nursing major, said that since her sisters first began fundraising for Breast Cancer Awareness Month in 2014, they have tripled the amount of donations. In Fall 2015, they were able to donate \$2,600 to the Texas Oncology Center, which is



Spring

CAREER EXPO

CAREERS - INTERNSHIPS - JOBS

BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS
 Wednesday, March 23, 2016
 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | El Gran Salón

EDINBURG CAMPUS
 Thursday, March 24, 2016
 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Fieldhouse

Bring your UTRGV ID, Résumé & Dress Professionally

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

The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley



SEARCH “UTRGV-TV” ON YOUTUBE FOR TODAY’S LATEST NEWS




Live Here, Save Money!



University Inn & Suites

- \$385 mthly. for 1 – 2 persons
- Flexible month-to-month agreement
- All utilities paid (cable, water, electricity)
- Near the UTRGV and TSC campuses
- Security Surveillance
- Furnished, large rooms, full-size beds
- Restaurants nearby
- WiFi Available
- Laundry Area

Located in
Downtown Brownsville
 55 Perl Blvd.
 (Off 12th St.)
 For more information,
 call (956) 546-0381

TAKE 12TH STREET EXIT GOING WEST FROM EXPRESSWAY.
 GO ONE MILE. MOTEL IS ON RIGHT SIDE.

Advertise in *The Rider*

Call 882-5143 or 665-2541
 for details.

High winds drive high scores

UTRGV Women host golf tournament



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Junior Geraldine Torrellas drives during the third round of the UTRGV Invitational in McAllen on March 9. She tied two others for the top score of 241 among Vaqueros.

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

Strong winds welcomed women golfers from 11 universities March 7. They started their rounds at the McAllen Country Club as part of the UTRGV Invitational. The women’s tournament got started on a gusty Monday, with winds recorded at 25 mph and gusts reaching 47 mph at the adjacent McAllen Miller International Airport. The winds made for a day of high scores for golfers across the field, including UTRGV, which had no golfer shoot scores under 80. The Vaqueros sat in fifth place after day one. Vaquero Women’s Golf Head Coach Risë Alexander said in a news release after day one that her team is not used to the winds, but will now have the experience. “They definitely learned a lot today because we typically don’t play in this kind of wind,” said Alexander, the second-year UTRGV coach. “There were a lot of shots that they had to create and

now they have a better idea, so when they are faced with this situation again they will know what to do.” Daniela Mendez led the Vaqueros after 18 holes of action with a score of 80. Four more of her teammates were within four strokes after day one. Geraldine Torrellas and Kelsey Canales finished day one two shots behind Mendez. Emma Mesta’s first round 83 and Shweta Mansingh’s 84 rounded out UTRGV’s top five. March 8 was the only day where the climate in McAllen cooperated with the golfers in the field. Scores for all golfers were lower and it was Torrellas that led UTRGV in day two. Her second round 73 was nine strokes lower than her score on Monday. Mendez and Mesta’s scores were even after two days and they represented the two next best scores. As a team UTRGV shot 26 strokes lower on Tuesday than Monday. Despite a dramatic improvement, it actually dropped to sixth place in the tournament. On March 9, the inclement weather struck again at the country club. A storm

with thunder, lightning and hail early that morning knocked out power and delayed the start of round three by an hour. Scores in round three were again high across the board. All team scores were in the 300s, and most schools shot higher day three than day one. A few hours after the delayed final round began, a downpour soaked the course. Golfers had to fight low visibility, winds and, now, heavy rain. UTRGV slid to seventh place, where it finished the tournament. Their top three in the tournament remained unchanged. Torrellas, Mendez and Mesta all finished tied with each after three eventual rounds of golf. Their three-round scores of 241 were the best on the team and they finished tied for 19th place overall. Lamar University claimed the team title, edging out second-place finishers Wichita State by three strokes. Individually, it was Nicole Budnik of Sam Houston State who had the best three-round score of the invitational. She hit a 221 over three days.

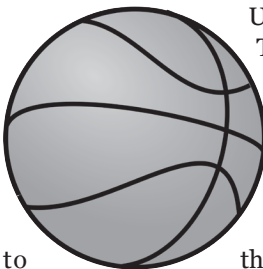
Visit us at
utrgvrider.com



Freshman Emma Mesta surveys the putting surface before hitting a shot in the third round of the UTRGV Invitational Tournament at the McAllen Country Club.

Vaquero trio honored by WAC

Bryan Ramos
THE RIDER



University of Texas Rio Grande Valley junior guard Shawnte Goff has been named the WAC Player of the Year and selected to the All-WAC First Team and All-Defensive Team, and junior forward Anushka Maldonado has been named to the All-Newcomer team.

The Western Athletic Conference announced its women’s basketball postseason honors on March 7, rewarding athletes for their play throughout the conference season as voted on by the eight head coaches. Goff led the WAC in scoring, averaging 16.1 points per game while also leading the conference in minutes per game at 35.9 per contest. She scored 20 points or more six times in WAC play and a total of nine times throughout the entire season. She finished WAC conference play by scoring 20 points and leading the Vaqueros to a victory against the New Mexico State University Aggies March 5. Goff uses a well-rounded game, often leading the team in scoring, while locking down on the defensive end of the court. In addition to leading the team in scoring and minutes, she also ranked among conference leaders in free throws, shooting at .794 percent; three-pointers made per game, 1.9; assists, 3.3; defensive rebounding, 5.4; steals, 1.4; and blocks per game, 0.6.

On the full season, Goff is averaging 15.4 points, 4.3 rebounds, 3.3 assists and 1.7 steals per game and has led UTRGV in scoring and assists in 17 and 18 games. She is already the program’s record-holder in field goals made (1,280) and ranks second all-time in scoring (1,324). She wasn’t the only Vaquero to earn postseason honors. Maldonado, a junior transfer from Odessa College, was named to the All-Newcomer team, finishing fifth in WAC points per game at 12.6, fifth in rebounds at 6.9 per game and ranking fourth in blocks per game with 1.2. She also finished third in free throw shooting (.813) and among conference leaders in a number of categories, including defensive rebounding (5.1), field goal percentage (.449), three-point shooting (.340), steals (1.5), and offensive rebounding (1.8).

Maldonado scored a career high 28 points on Jan. 14 in an all-around effort at Chicago State University, shooting 10 of 12 field goals, 4 of 5 from behind the three-point line to go along with nine rebounds and three steals. The WAC announced its men’s basketball postseason award winners March 8 as voted on by the eight head coaches. University of Texas Rio Grande Valley freshman guard Antonio Green earned the title of Freshman of the Year. In his first year of collegiate play, Green averaged 11.3 points and led the conference in minutes per game with 35.17. He finished the season among conference leaders in three-pointers per game, 2.17; top 10 in assists, 3.08 a game; and defensive rebounds per game, 4.08. On the entire season, Green averaged 11.7 points, 4.2 rebounds and 3.0 assists per game. His shooting of .388 (57 for 147) from behind the three-point line ranks as the seventh best three-point percentage among all freshmen in the NCAA.

Home Games

Tuesday, March 22

Baseball
vs Texas State University
6 p.m.
UTRGV Baseball Stadium

Saturday, March 26

Women’s Soccer
vs Tecnológico de Monterrey
7 p.m.
Soccer and Track & Field

Friday, April 1

Baseball
vs New Mexico State University
7 p.m.
UTRGV Baseball Stadium

Saturday, April 2

Baseball
vs New Mexico State University
6 p.m.
UTRGV Baseball Stadium

Sunday, April 3

Baseball
vs New Mexico State University
Noon
UTRGV Baseball Stadium

Sunday, April 3

Women’s Soccer
vs Texas A&M - Corpus Christi
4 p.m.
Soccer and Track & Field



UTRio Grande Valley

LEAN SIGMA ACADEMY

WEEK 1: May 16 – 20 WEEK 2: May 23 – 27

IMPROVING BUSINESS' OPERATIONS

INCREASING PRODUCTION SPEED

INCREASING PROFITABLE GROWTH

IMPROVEMENT

INNOVATION

LEADERSHIP

IMPROVE YOUR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES! GAIN A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

LEAN MASTER CERTIFICATION

SIX SIGMA BLACK BELT CERTIFICATION

Take your educational and career goals to the next level with UTRGV's Lean Sigma Academy. Apply today and get a competitive advantage in today's job market with this innovative program that is applicable in any industry from education to manufacturing, hospitals, banks, municipalities, retail, and administrative offices. The Academy will help develop your innovative and creative side while enhancing your leadership and communication skills, and most importantly, teaching you how to work as part of a team.

AT THE LEAN SIGMA ACADEMY YOU WILL:

- Participate in 80 hours of total class time.
- Complete a project (one for each training) with a local company within a year of finishing the program.
- Receive project coaching by UTRGV/TMAC Manufacturing Specialists.

REQUIREMENTS:

- OPEN TO ALL MAJORS.
- Be classified as a UTRGV Junior, Senior or Graduate
- Mastered basic mathematics skills.
- Passed the course: Statistics and Probability.

For more information, contact TMAC at tmac@utrgv.edu or (956) 665 – 7011.

*Certification depends on project completed.



SMOKE 9

A MESQUITE
BITE
AND SMOKY
FINISH

GET IT BEFORE IT
DISAPPEARS

THE WING
WING-STOP
EXPERTS

VISIT ONE OF OUR
6 BROWNSVILLE LOCATIONS

SKIP THE WAIT.
ORDER @ wingstop.com

FREE

**REGULAR HAND-CUT
SEASONED FRIES**
WITH ANY WING PURCHASE

Not valid with any other specials, promotions or offers.
Present coupon at the time of purchase. Valid only at participating location.
Expires 04/30/16.

One coupon per customer visit.



\$5 OFF

**ANY PURCHASE
OF \$20 OR MORE**

Not valid with any other specials, promotions or offers.
Present coupon at the time of purchase. Valid only at participating location.
Expires 04/30/16.

One coupon per customer visit.

