

THE RIDER

MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2017

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Chasing history

Antonio Green among NCAA's top shooters

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ON CAMPUS



More shuttles

UTRGV to receive 5 new shuttles next fall

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A & E

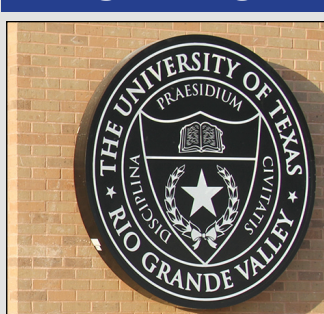


Lights, camera, action

TV and film producer shares her journey

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ESPAÑOL



Período de prueba

Universidad comienza un año en período de prueba

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Accreditation Anxiety

UTRGV awaits letter from standards commission

Bryan Ramos
NEWS EDITOR

UTRGV biology senior Maricruz Lopez is not only concerned about getting a job after graduation, she also worries that employers will not consider her for a position because of the school's accreditation status.

"It really worries me because it makes me [rethink] the quality of education of the university and how it is going to affect my future

Vaquero Voice,
Page 4

when I graduate," said Lopez, who will graduate in May. "It really affects me, I guess, thinking, 'Well, what's going to happen if the university [is not accredited]? What's going to happen with everything I have worked for?'"

In December, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges placed UTRGV under a yearlong probation for failure to demonstrate compliance with several



accreditation standards.

SACSCOC is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states.

A disclosure statement

issued by SACSCOC on Dec. 15 regarding the status of UTRGV states, "Probation is the most serious sanction imposed by SACSCOC's Board of Trustees short of loss of accreditation. It can be imposed on an institution for

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MARIO GONZALEZ

failure to correct deficiencies of significant non-compliance with the Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards, or Federal Requirements of the Principles of Accreditation of the Commission; failure to

See **PROBATION**, Page 6

Spring into some fun before class

Karina Aguirre
ONLINE EDITOR

While you make your way to class this week, be sure to check out the Week of Welcome events going on across campus. Whether you're on the Edinburg or Brownsville campus, there's something fun in store for you.

To kick off the first week of the spring semester, UTRGV will host a variety of events during the sister week of Best Week Ever -WOW or Week of Welcome.

The activities started with today's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, in which hundreds of students were scheduled to volunteer for a variety of projects throughout the Rio Grande Valley, and will run through Friday.

"It's the first week of school

of the spring semester, so to welcome you guys, welcome students, faculty and staff back to classes, we are doing a week full of celebration, as well as keeping the traditions going,"

said Daniela Venegas, student program adviser for the Campus Programming Board.

If you can't find your class on the first day and you forgot to have breakfast, don't sweat it, the Campus Activities Board has got you covered with the Breakfast Bonanza. Starting at 8 a.m. and ending at 10 a.m. Tuesday, departments such as the University Library, Career

Services and Student Involvement will hand out breakfast snacks and treats and guiding students around the university.

"We have around 15 departments that will participate. It's a tradition that we are carrying over from UT

See **WELCOME**, Page 10



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

UTRGV student Chrystian Garcia tosses coins into a mobile water fountain during last semester's Best Week Ever celebration on the Brownsville campus.



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

I graduated, now what?

Editor's note: This is the first in a series on acquiring a job after graduation.

Getting a job

Macarena Martinez
THE RIDER

Getting a job after obtaining that hard-earned degree is not an easy task, but there are resources on campus that can help graduating seniors.

UTRGV's Career Center offers students many services to obtain employment based on their academic career.

"The Career Center is divided into three areas," Career Center Director Juan A. Rodriguez-Nieto said.

Career education is the first area. Beginning at orientation, students meet with a career coach to create their profiles on Career Connection, Rodriguez-Nieto said.

Career Connection posts employer interview schedules, information about events the department will host, as well as opportunities for on- and

off-campus jobs. A career coach can help students create a résumé and cover letter, and help prepare students for a job interview.

"In the teacher program ... a representative from [UTRGV] offered to help look over résumés," said Imelda Guerrero, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in art education last spring.

Guerrero is now an art teacher at Roy Miller High School in Corpus Christi.

The second area is employer relations. The Career Center promotes students to employers and the community through activities such as career and teacher expos, and on-campus interviews.

The next Career Expo is scheduled March 7 on the Edinburg campus and March

See **GRAD**, Page 2

THE RIDER

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TUESDAY

Throwdown

The **Campus Programming Board** will host a party from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Texas Southmost College Recreation Center in Brownsville and on Thursday at the University Ballroom in Edinburg. For more information, contact **Daniela Venegas** at 665-2660 or email daniela.venegas@utrgv.edu.

Involvement Fair

Student Involvement will host an **Involvement Fair** from noon to 1 p.m. in the Main Building front lawn in Brownsville to encourage students to join campus organizations. There will be free food, prizes and music. In Edinburg, the event will be held at the same time Thursday on the Chapel lawn. For more information, email **Kei Bermea**, a program specialist for Student Involvement, at kei.larabermea@utrgv.edu.

WEDNESDAY

Janssen and Kwak concert

Cellist **Tido Janssen** and pianist **Stacy Kwak**, both lecturers at UTRGV, will perform in concert at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg. Tickets (\$10 for adults and \$5 for students with ID and senior citizens) can be purchased at <http://patron.utrgv.edu> or at the door. For more information, call 665-3881 or email patron@utrgv.edu.

SATURDAY

Piano Marathon

A **Piano Marathon** will take place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg. The marathon is part of the **Student Ensemble Series**. Tickets (\$10 for adults and \$5 for students with ID and senior citizens) can be purchased at <http://patron.utrgv.edu> or at the door. For more information, call 665-3881 or email patron@utrgv.edu.

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Dec. 23 and Jan. 7.



Dec. 23

1:50 a.m.: Officers observed a couple arguing in Lot E36 on the Edinburg campus. The officers determined the argument was only verbal and that no criminal offense occurred. The male, who was 17, had signs of alcohol consumption and was cited for consumption of alcohol by a minor and given a criminal trespass warning. The female was escorted to her residence.

Dec. 26

1:28 a.m.: An officer made contact with a man who was urinating outside a pickup truck in Lot B1 on the Brownsville campus. The man said he “really needed to go.” He was cited for disorderly conduct.

Dec. 30

12:52 a.m.: A sergeant conducted a traffic stop on an individual who was driving 73 mph in a 30-mph zone on Closner Boulevard in Edinburg. As the officer approached the vehicle, the individual fled the scene at a high rate of speed. Because the vehicle criteria

for pursuit under UT System Police policy was not met, the vehicle was not chased. The Mission Police Department was notified of the incident. The case is under investigation.

11:30 a.m.: A former UTRGV employee filed a report, alleging that a current employee was using another former employee’s personal information to purchase insurance policies for UTRGV travel and events. The former employee said he feels he was retaliated against for bringing attention to the matter. He provided a copy of a police report filed with the Brownsville Police Department and notes he has taken regarding this case.

Jan. 1

8:10 p.m.: During a traffic stop, officers detected an odor of marijuana in the vehicle. The driver allegedly admitted to possessing a usable quantity of marijuana inside the center console of the vehicle. The officers found the marijuana in a plastic bag. The driver was taken to Brownsville City Jail and booked on a misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana.

FOOD SALES

Chicken plates

The **Association of Latino Professionals for America** will sell chicken plates from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday at the Library BBQ Area in Edinburg. For more information, email claudia.orozcogonzalez01@utrgv.edu.

Bubble tea

The **Filipino Student Association** will sell bubble tea, a variety of fruit-flavored teas and milk teas blended with tapioca balls, from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday at the Library CTY A in Edinburg. For more information, email ayana.ignacio01@utrgv.edu.

Burgers

The **Society for Human Resource Management** will sell burgers from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday at the Math and General Classrooms BBQ Pit in Edinburg. For more information, email tavania.nino01@utrgv.edu.

--Compiled by Marie Vallangca

Jan. 6

2:20 p.m.: A man reported that his bank account was used for a transaction at UTRGV. The man told an officer he does not have any children who are registered or attend the university. The case is under investigation.

Jan. 7

3:23 a.m.: When an officer activated his lights and siren to stop a driver for disregarding a stop sign, the driver increased his speed to 40 mph. The driver stopped at an apartment complex where he defied the officer’s commands. He was charged with evading arrest, resisting arrest, search or transportation and failure to identify. Emergency Medical Services was called to treat the driver’s scrapes suffered while resisting the officers. He declined treatment, saying he is infected with HIV. He was transported to the Edinburg Regional Hospital where he continued to be uncooperative. He was eventually cleared to return to jail. The man was issued a written warning for the traffic violation.

--Compiled by Macarena Martinez

Rodriguez-Nieto said having a good résumé can help a student.

“Having the right major and the right GPA will be a prerequisite for anyone to apply for certain positions,” he said. “But once you have met those, what’s really going to get you that interview is going to be the rest of the experience. ... We want for students to create those résumés that are very appealing and the way to do it is by volunteering ... by working preferably on areas related to their major.”

Studying abroad sets applicants apart and can be a great opportunity to start a conversation with an employer.

“Take advantage of those resources before [they’re] gone after graduation,” Guerrero said.

On the Brownsville campus, the Career Center is located in Cortez Hall 129 and open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. In Edinburg, the center is in the Student Services Building and open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday.

GRAD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

8 in Brownsville.

Oscar Castillo, who graduated last month with a bachelor’s degree in communication from UTRGV, applied for six jobs and was hired as a communications coordinator for the Information Technology Empowerment Center in Lansing, Mich.

Castillo is an example of the importance and benefits of attending career expos throughout one’s education at the university.

“They prepared me for the real world,” he said.

The third area is on-campus interviews.

“Student employment can be perceived as a résumé builder,” Rodriguez-Nieto said. “We want people to see their on-campus employment not only as a source of income, but also a way for them to learn transferable skills.”

Some of the skills a student can obtain

in an on-campus job are teamwork, communication and leadership. About 2,500 students work on campus. The Career Center tries to place students in jobs related to their degree.

On-campus jobs are essential, “especially when students need references aside from just professors’, someone that knows their work ethic aside from family and friends,” Guerrero said.

Rodriguez-Nieto recommends that students start looking for employment early, a semester before graduation, and to consider it as a class.

He also suggests that they have an on-campus interview with companies, attend expos, update résumés, start making calls and search for jobs at Monster Jobs, Career Connection and LinkedIn.

Rodriguez-Nieto said employers no longer use business cards.

“They ask you for your information, they look you up on LinkedIn and they send you a request,” he said.

Employers look for someone who will stand out in job applications and interviews.

Visit us online at
utrgvrider.com

2 Valley residents to attend inauguration

Brenda Garza
THE RIDER

When Donald J. Trump takes the oath of office at noon Friday in Washington, D.C., and becomes the 45th president of the United States, at least two Rio Grande Valley residents will be there.

McAllen resident Hilda Garza DeShazo, a former member of the McAllen Independent School District board of trustees and a Republican delegate, will attend the inauguration.

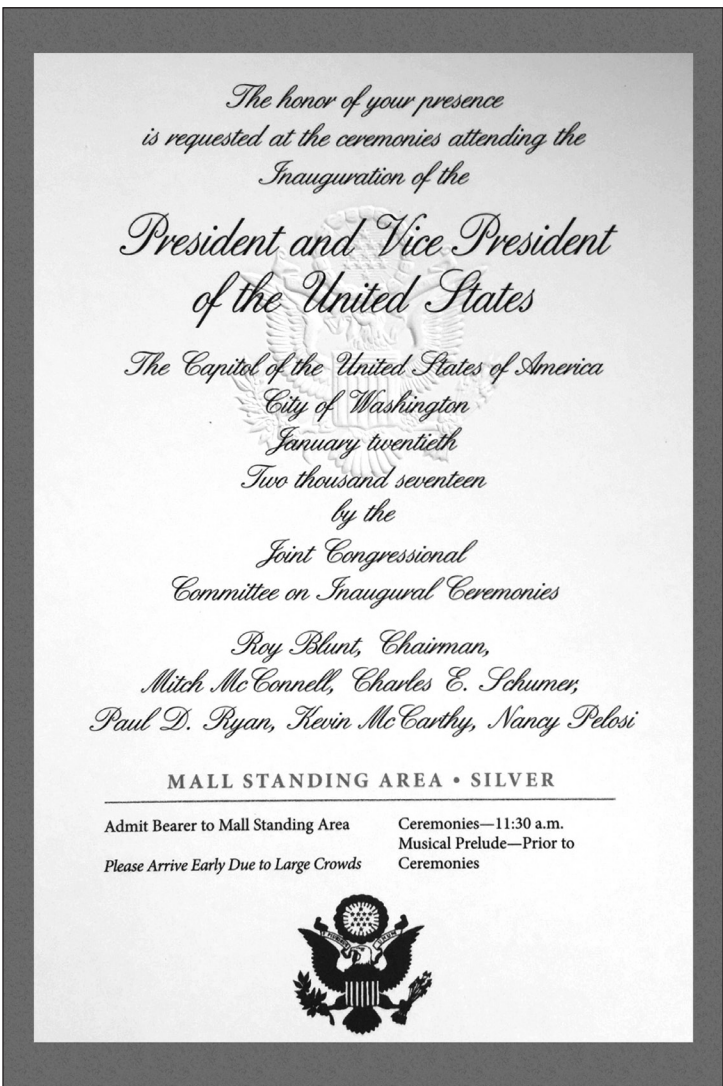
“It’s an honor to go,” DeShazo said. “I’m going as a delegate and I’m going to partake in the essence of the whole thing.”

She automatically received an invitation to the inauguration after attending the 2016 Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, as a Texas delegate.

“I’m really excited about it,” DeShazo said. “I mean, regardless of what people think of our president-elect, I think it’s an iconic inauguration. I think it’s a historical event.”

Also attending will be Chris Cabrera, vice president of the National Border Patrol Council’s Local 3377 of the Rio Grande Valley sector and national spokesman for the Border Patrol.

Cabrera has been working with Trump on immigration and other border-related issues. He, along with other Border Patrol representatives, received an invitation to the inauguration.



COURTESY PHOTO

“It’s my first time going to an inauguration and regardless of where you stand politically, it’s history,” he said. “I’m real excited about going. I know that there weren’t a lot of Trump supporters in

the Rio Grande Valley ... but I was a big supporter from the beginning because of his stance on law enforcement.”

Cabrera looks forward to the inauguration. He and his family will attend the historic



event and is excited about sightseeing.

“Washington, D.C., is history all in itself,” Cabrera said. “I look forward to sharing that with my young son and showing him all the different monuments and memorials. It’s a classroom all by itself.”

Trump, 70, is the oldest and possibly wealthiest person to be elected president. He is a businessman, author, former host of NBC’s “The Celebrity Apprentice,” and has quickly become an American politician.

After announcing his candidacy on June 16, 2015, in New York City, he quickly gained followers who shared his views on illegal immigration, the trade deficit, the national debt and terrorism.

Although he gained

millions of supporters during the presidential election campaign, Trump continuously received criticism for his unorthodox behavior from people in the United States and around the world, including British Prime Minister Theresa May, who found his comments “unacceptable” after a scandalous tape emerged of Trump saying, “Grab them by the p****.”

Although May found his comments offensive, the *Independent*, a British online newspaper, quoted the prime minister as saying she is willing to work with Trump.

“The relationship that the U.K. has with the United States is about something much bigger than the relationship between the two

See **TRUMP**, Page 10

New buses to arrive in Fall 2017

Marie Vallanca
THE RIDER

Some riders say the current number of UTRGV shuttles is not enough to accommodate all who use them. The Department of Parking and Transportation has ordered five new shuttle buses to address this problem, university officials say.

“We’re expecting new shuttles to be available at the start of next school year,” said Rodney Gomez, UTRGV director of Parking and Transportation.

During the fall semester, 33,992 students, faculty and staff used the Campus Connector and 24,000 used the Campus Shuttle services. The Campus Connector transports students, faculty and staff between campuses. The Campus Shuttle transports riders around their respective campus.

Khalid Aada, a literatures and cultural studies lecturer from Brownsville, has used the shuttle services since Fall 2015.

“As faculty, my experience was horrible since Fall 2015, but last Fall 2016 was something unbelievable,” Aada said. “There [was] never enough buses. The drivers used to leave before the time, in general, and the only two buses were smaller for the quantity of students and faculty that needed to take this transport. Always students and faculty were left behind.”

Daniel Corona, a mechanical engineering student from San Benito, has used the Campus Connector since the opening of UTRGV in Fall 2015.



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

Last semester, Corona used the Harlingen route to take the 6:30 a.m. shuttle to be on time for his morning class on the Edinburg campus.

“The time was great at 6:30 a.m. Yet, that lasted about two weeks and it was moved to 6:45 a.m. I didn’t see an inconvenience until the first day of the new change, when I was going to use it to go to my Edinburg classes on Tuesday and Thursdays. The bus would not arrive until 7 a.m. For me, it was frustrating because I had class at 8 a.m. and the professor had strict rules about tardiness.”

Corona said that wasn’t the only inconvenience he experienced while riding the Campus Connector.

“There wasn’t any designated areas or shaded

areas for students and staff to wait for the arrival of the next bus,” he said, referring to the bus stop in Harlingen. “The buses were never on time and it was always 15 to 30 minutes late.”

Since the new shuttles won’t be available until Fall 2017, adjustments need to be made to meet the demand for Spring 2017 semester.

“We’re going [to] continue to allocate our resources as best as we can, so that if we need to put more buses on the connector, we’ll put them on there. We don’t want to strand [students] on different campuses. If we need to pull vehicles off the circulator routes on campus, we’ll go ahead and do that and put them on the connector; that way, we don’t leave people 60

miles away from where they need to be,” Gomez said.

Each new bus will have a 40-seat capacity. The new five buses will cost a combined total of \$800,000 and are being funded by the Student Services fee, which pays for 20 percent, Federal Transit Administration and through a partnership with Valley Metro. Currently, two buses hold a 30-seat capacity and the next largest is a 22-seater. The Campus Connector currently has four buses, two in Edinburg and two in Brownsville.

The percentage of riders in Brownsville is 49.7, compared with 50.3 percent in Edinburg, Gomez said. In Fall 2015, the total number of riders was 5,469 and increased to 33,992 in Fall 2016.

For athletic events in Edinburg, there is no shuttle to transport attendees from Brownsville, except for the regularly scheduled shuttles.

All shuttles are equipped with Wi-Fi, Gomez said. Shuttle routes and schedules are available online at utrgv.edu/transportation.

If schedules or routes change, notifications will be posted on the Parking and Transportation’s website or its Twitter account, @utrgv_pts. Announcements will be posted on buses, bus shelters and bus stops.

For more information regarding UTRGV shuttle services, call Parking and Transportation at 665-2738.

Vaquero Voice

UTRGV Accreditation Probation



“Yo opino que es en parte una irresponsabilidad por parte de la escuela no haberse dado cuenta de las cosas que estaba haciendo mal o de las cosas que no estaba en sí aclarando, por todo el proceso que se llevó muy poco tiempo en hacer realmente. Esta escuela no le tomó mucho tiempo inaugurarse y yo creo que debido a eso la consecuencia fue el “probation” y yo creo que por parte de la escuela debería asegurarnos que todo está bien y corregir esos problemas que tiene por ahí”.

Mauricio Salazar Rivera
Estudiante de tercer año en ciencias biomédicas

“I think that the university has been going through a lot of changes, that’s mainly the main issue, but I believe that it is going to be better for the university. Even though it is not certain what will happen, I believe that it will be for the better of the university’s future.”



Alejandra Carrizales
Math education senior



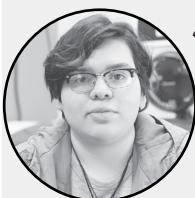
“Really, we have nothing to worry about. I know there was some complications during the beginning of the semester. I know it did come out in *The Monitor* and it did come out in the news but as far as the topic, I don’t think it’s anything to be worried about. If you’re taking classes now, you’ll still get accreditation so, honestly, it’s just a little bump in the road and we have nothing to worry about and they’re taking care of it right now.”

Mario Hernandez
Nursing junior

“I just don’t think that anything bad is going to happen. We’re not going to lose our accreditation. No students are going to need to transfer. It’s a UT school, so I have faith that we’re going to get out of this mess.”



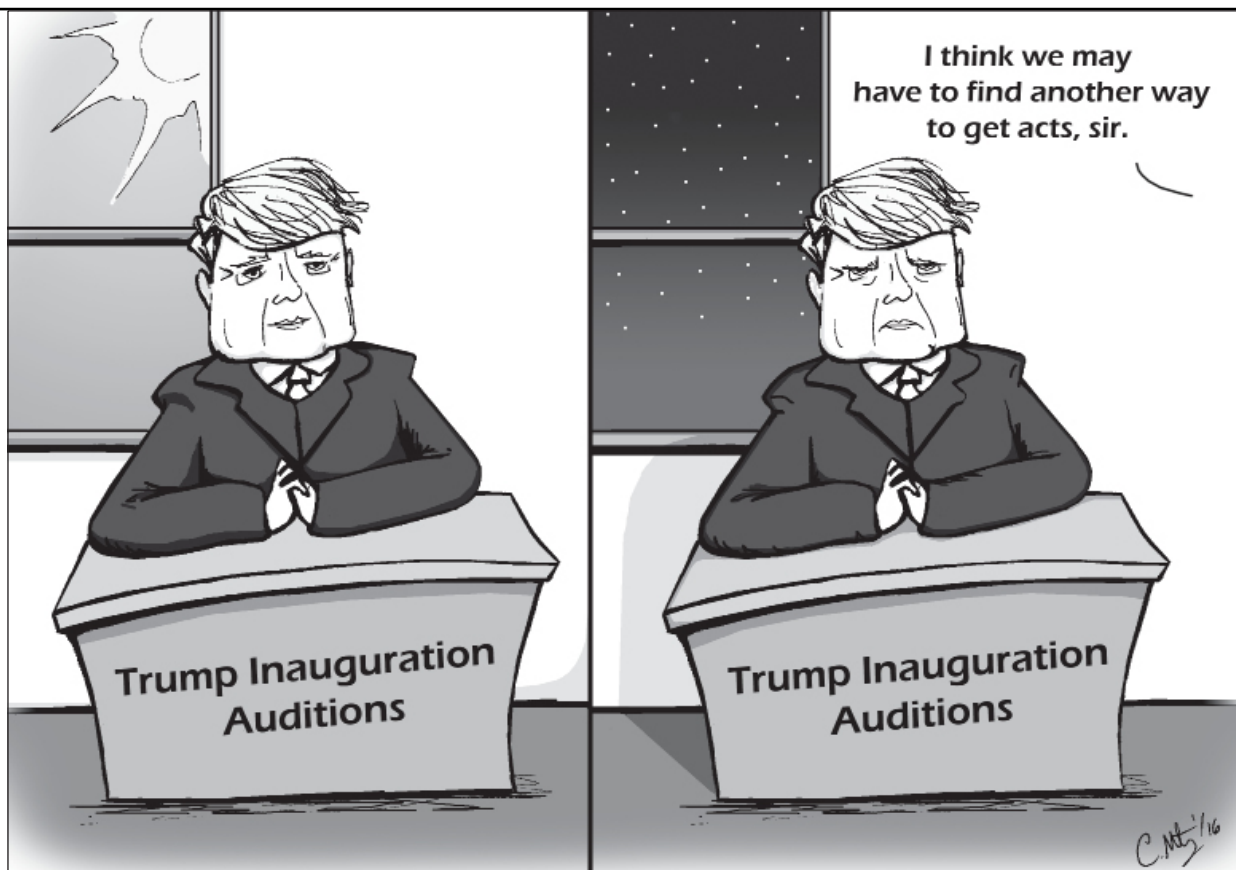
Amanda Aguilar
Rehabilitation services sophomore



“Creo que está bien. No me gusta que estemos en probation pero como dicen que están trabajando en ello, está bien”.

Michelle Gonzalez
Estudiante de tercer año en arte

--Compiled by Ana Cahuiche and Gabriel Mata



Is it impossible to go through with New Year’s resolutions?



Sarah Carvajal
THE RIDER

It’s that time of year again. People around the world are stating the cliché, “New year, new me.”

Some want to become more fit, others want to improve their budgeting skills, some want to improve their GPA and some even want to find a potential soulmate, but do some only create New Year’s resolutions because it’s the common thing to do?

New Year’s resolutions require a lot of self-discipline and motivation. They are a test to see just how much you want to get to where you want to be.

According to studies, only about 8 percent of people actually go all the way through with their resolutions and more than 50 percent fall through within the first six months.

You have to resist from eating that bag of chips as a snack, have to get off the couch, forcing you to not binge watch that show on Netflix to go on that run, not spend your money on those shoes you’ve been wanting. The list goes on.

If you are really serious about achieving your goals for the year, maybe think about ways to motivate you more than saying, “It’s my New Year’s resolution.”

Find friends with similar goals and try to achieve them together. This could keep either of you from falling through because you will motivate each other to keep pushing through.

If it’s a financial goal you have, maybe set a certain thing, event or trip with friends that you are saving

up for and save more than you actually need. Not only will you have enough money to have fun with, you also will have some more saved up for the future.

People are competitive by nature, so they will do anything they need to in order to be on top. It’s just how we have evolved. So, why not do a little friendly competition with friends to see who did a better job in achieving a common goal?

The group of friends that I am a part of have decided to hold a competition where whoever has the biggest transformation within five months will win the pot of money. Who doesn’t like receiving money?

It’s incentives like these that can push you more than you can do with your own willpower.

So, is it impossible to keep a New Year’s resolution? Of course not, just ask those 8 percent that actually do it, but you have to find that thing that’s going to be your drive.

Sometimes, you can’t just say you’re going to do something, and expect it to work out because the words have come out of your mouth. You have to have a plan of attack.

It takes steps to achieve a goal, and sometimes those are really small steps. You can’t go to the gym the first day and expect to wake up the next morning with results. It takes time, work and dedication.

Like the French writer, Antoine de Saint-Exupery, said, “A goal without a plan is just a wish.” When you have a plan, you know where you want to be and how you can get there.

Achieving goals is not impossible. The only thing that makes them impossible is how you approach them.

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 TheRider@utrgv.edu. 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.

Students awarded for creativity



CLARISSA MARTINEZ/THE RIDER

Josie Del Castillo, a studio art graduate student, poses with her artwork, “Evocative,” published in the 2016 issue of *Gallery*, a student literary and arts magazine at UTRGV. Del Castillo is one of five UTRGV students whose work received awards from Columbia Scholastic Press Association’s 33rd Gold Circle Awards program.

Clarissa Martinez
THE RIDER

Of 6,420 entries and 1,267 winners from across the country, five UTRGV *Gallery* magazine contributors received awards from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association’s 33rd Gold Circle Awards program.

Gallery is an annual student-run literary and arts magazine.

“We sent in a lot of entries. ... It means a lot, I think, you know because we as instructors, we tell them, ‘Hey you’re doing really interesting things,’ but I think it’s also nice to have some stranger in New York say, ‘Hey, this is working,’” said Britt Haraway, creative writing assistant professor and faculty adviser to *Gallery*.

The CSPA is a volunteer-based organization that unites student journalists and faculty advisers through educational conferences, idea exchanges, textbooks, critiques and award pro-

grams, according to the Columbia University website. Students are awarded either first, second or third place, or with Certificates of Merit. The competition has magazine, newspaper, yearbook and online media categories.

Haraway sent in about 30 individual entries to the CSPA that the *Gallery* magazine staff had already discussed when they were conducting their own campus contest. The staff consists of students from a creative writing class as well as some outside student recruits.

“We had talked about which poems we were most excited about when we had our own campus awards. So, in general, I just sent in those ones that the students had nominated for our campus,” he said.

Josie Del Castillo won first place in the Magazine Portfolio Illustration category with her “Evocative” series. Brent Davis placed second in the Magazine Humor category for his piece,

“The Moral Implications of Chic-fil-a.”

Del Castillo, a UTRGV studio art graduate student, had submitted a series of four oil-painted portraits to *Gallery*. Each painting featured a realistic figure in front of a colorful, abstract background. She feels honored for receiving an award from the CSPA.

“Columbia University is in New York, and that’s where all the big boys are. So I was like, ‘Wow,’” Del Castillo said. “It was like three people, or four people, in that category but I still won first of all those other universities. I mean, I feel proud as a Hispanic as well because I was the only one from Texas and the Rio Grande Valley. ... This is just a small step to what I want to achieve this year, or next year, or the following years as I pursue my master’s.”

Cari Villarreal won a Certificate of Merit in the Magazine Open Poetry category for her poem, “Communion.” Laura Gonzalez earned a Certificate of Merit in the Magazine Experimental

Fiction category for her work, “How to Ruin Your High School Life Your Senior Year, In 10 Days, In 3 Simple Steps, As Told by Judith Sloan.” Melissa Vega garnered a Certificate of Merit for the Magazine Computer Generated Illustration category with her piece, “Governed.”

“Governed” is a spray paint and collage artwork that explores the idea of rationing and the concept of government control over lower-class citizens, said Vega, a UTRGV alum with a bachelor’s degree in art. She was surprised to find out her artwork received an award.

“I didn’t realize I won anything until Josie posted something up on Facebook! ... I was like, ‘I wonder who else won.’ ... So when I went to my email, I was like, ‘Oh, yeah, I got an email!’ ... It kind of hit me halfway through reading the message that I won something!” Vega said in a phone interview with *The Rider*. “I only submitted one piece. ... It was pretty surrealistic.”

Gallery will continue to enter this competition in the future. It is currently taking submissions for its *Gallery 2017* issue for poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, plays and artwork. Submissions are kept anonymous between the staff as they discuss which entries will be in the final publication.

“It’s open to any UTRGV student. ... We try to include a lot of different styles, subject matter. ... Definitely try to keep an open mind to whatever the students are doing,” Haraway said.

Vega encourages students to submit their work to the magazine.

“Don’t be scared to try. I think that a lot of times people are very shy or very timid in pursuing something. And they just automatically say, ‘Well, you know what, I’m not gonna try.’ And I think that it’s important to try because you really don’t know where you stand unless you do,” Vega said.

Del Castillo also advises students to not fear rejection.

“Submit, like, whatever you think is your strongest work. ... Don’t be scared to be rejected. ... I have been rejected before from other, like, contests and stuff, but that doesn’t get me down. You gotta move on to the next one because there’s a lot of opportunities. You just gotta look for them,” she said.

Copies of *Gallery 2016* can be found at the Liberal Arts Building South lobby and Writing Center on the Edinburg campus, and at the Grid on the Brownsville campus.

Students may submit their work to *Gallery* at gallery.submittable.com/submit. For more information, contact Haraway at britt.haraway@utrgv.edu or the magazine at www.facebook.com/galleryutrgv/.

Chess team places 6th in Pan Am chess tourney

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

The UTRGV Chess Team placed sixth in the 2016 Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Champions tournament, held Dec. 27-30 in New Orleans.

“There were 60 teams. Our goal was to qualify to the Final Four teams,” Chess Coach Bartek Maciejaja said. “It is the most prestigious event of the year.”

Last year, the team finished second in the same event.

“We are sixth in the nation, that’s something to be proud of, but I had higher aspirations, higher goals,” Maciejaja said.

He praised the students’ motivation. “They were very ambitious, very motivated. They wanted to achieve the goal,” Maciejaja said.

Team A planned on playing against Webster University’s Team B but, due to changes in the tournament, they played against Webster’s Team A, which, according to Grandmaster Andrey Stukopin, is much stronger than Team B.

“There was two teams playing against each other, [Webster A and Webster B], even if they were [from] the same university,” Stukopin said. UTRGV Team A played against UT

Dallas and then Webster Team A in the last round.

“In the last round, we played against the main favorite, Webster University,” Maciejaja said. “[Grandmaster Vladimir Belous] tried to win that game. Unfortunately, at one moment, he didn’t see how to win. ... We played with the best team in the nation; we were very close to [winning] that match.”

Belous said before the last match, Maciejaja told him he had to win in order to qualify for the President’s Cup, also known as the Final Four; however, during the last round, the situation changed.

“During the last round, our opponents, they lost their matches. So, during [that] round, our situation was changed. So, we actually just had to make a draw to qualify, but we did not know, so I played like last game,” he said.

Belous said he had a good situation on his board to make a draw, but since he wanted to win, he risked too much.

“He was very ambitious,” Maciejaja said.

Belous said he was upset about the loss.

“We were stronger,” he said. “We had good chances to beat them but it’s



COURTESY PHOTO

Grandmasters Anton Kovalyov (foreground), Andrey Stukopin and Vladimir Belous, members of UTRGV Chess Team A, concentrate during a match last month in the 2016 Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Champions tournament.

a sport. Some things may happen.”

Stukopin said he still does not understand why the organizers changed the games at the last moment.

“It was very disappointing. I didn’t believe we did not qualify,” he said. “We had a lot of chances to win; we got unpredictable things.”

The UTRGV Chess Team is currently competing in the World League tournament, which concludes at the end of March.

“The opponents include even the world champion, [Magnus Carlsen of Norway]; that’s the most prestigious league world in this year,” Maciejaja said.

In other chess news, the Rio Grande Ospreys, a community chess team that includes UTRGV Chess Team members, won their first match, 9.5 to 6.5, last Wednesday against the Las Vegas Desert Rats in the 2017 PRO Chess League.

Guillermo Vazquez, a physics and computer science junior, won all four games, Maciejaja wrote in an email to *The Rider*. Vazquez is from Asuncion, Paraguay.

For the Ospreys, Vazquez scored 4 points in four games; Felix Ynojosa, 2 points in four games; Belous, 2 points in four games; and Carlos Hevia, 1.5 points in four games.

PROBATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

make timely and significant progress toward correcting the deficiencies; or failure to comply with Commission policies and procedures.”

Last Wednesday, SACSCOC mailed a formal letter, which the university expects to receive some time this week, explaining the results of its board meeting and detailing the specifics of the violations.

The violations are the following:

- Integrity (Principle 1.1)
- Acceptance of academic credits (Comprehensive standard 3.4.4)
- Consortial relationships/contractual agreements (Comprehensive standard 3.4.7)
- Institutional credits for a degree (Comprehensive standard 3.5.2)
- Institutional credits for a graduate degree (Comprehensive standard 3.6.3)
- Financial aid audits (Comprehensive standard 3.10.2)
- Substantive change (Comprehensive standard 3.12.1)
- Advertising, Student Recruitment, and Representation of Accredited Status policy compliance, (Comprehensive standard 3.13)
- Publication of accreditation status (Comprehensive standard 3.14.1)
- Recruitment materials (Federal requirement 4.6)

Pamela Cravey, SACSCOC coordinator of Communications and External Affairs, said she could not speak on the details pertaining to the integrity violation, but an Integrity and Accuracy in Institutional Representation Policy Statement states:

“Integrity, essential to the purpose of higher education, functions as the basic contract defining the relationship between the Commission and each of its member and candidate institutions. It is a relationship in which all parties agree to deal honestly and openly with their constituencies and with one another. Without this commitment, no relationship can exist or be sustained

between the Commission and its accredited and candidate institutions.”

In December 2017, UTRGV will be reviewed by SACSCOC’s board of trustees, which will consider the accreditation status of the university following review of a monitoring report submitted by the institution addressing the standards cited for non-compliance, and the report of a special committee that will visit the institution in Fall 2017.

UTRGV President Guy Bailey has experience dealing with a university placed on probation. When Bailey became president of Texas Tech in 2008, the university was in the middle of serving a yearlong probation. In December of that year, SACSCOC removed Texas Tech from probation.

“Well, the most important thing you have to do is work carefully one on one with SACSCOC,” he said. “The issues here are technical issues, really, that have to deal with the transition to UTRGV and the split of UT Brownsville and Texas Southmost College. We’ll work carefully with SACSCOC and make sure we get done what needs to be done. Until that happens, we’re fully accredited and anticipate never being in any other state.”

Bailey met the UTRGV Faculty Senate executive committee last month to discuss the school’s probationary status.

Faculty President Bobbette Morgan told *The Rider* Bailey was up-front with the faculty in their Dec. 9 meeting.

“In fact, as we started the meeting, he just said, ‘Well, let me share with you what I have so far.’” Morgan said. “There were handouts prepared for us with the exact notes [UTRGV] had received from [SACSCOC]. ... He was very open with us and just shared material right up-front.”

The Rider asked for a copy of the notes and timeline of the creation of UTRGV Bailey shared with the Faculty Senate, but as of press time, the newspaper had not received the material.

Morgan said she and the executive committee members discussed their meeting with Bailey and all agreed he

was being transparent and honest with them.

She told *The Rider* that not all members of the Faculty Senate share the same opinion about UTRGV’s probationary status.

“Just because the officers are unanimous on something doesn’t mean that everybody agrees. ... Everyone has their own opinion,” Morgan said. “There are folks who are watching very carefully, as they should be, to see how the administration reacts and handles this.”

After the meeting with the Faculty Senate, Bailey said it was rightfully concerned but remained helpful and supportive.

“They were very helpful and supportive. Like everybody, they’re concerned, but not unduly so,” Bailey said. “They’re well aware that these kinds of things happen all the time. The University of North Carolina Chapel Hill got off probation the day we went on probation, University of Louisville went on probation, so it’s not uncommon, so faculty understand that. They’ve been very helpful.”

Morgan said the Faculty Senate will help the UTRGV administration in any way it can with the probation issue.

“We’re certainly open to whatever is asked from us to help,” she said.

Morgan also mentioned that Steven Leslie, UT System executive vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, will assist UTRGV.

“My role is just to support the campus in ways the president, the provost need,” Leslie said in an interview last Tuesday.

He said he believes Bailey, UTRGV Provost Havidán Rodríguez, and the rest of the school’s administrators are fully capable of handling and addressing the probation issue.

“From the University of Texas System, we’re very proud of how the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley has opened its doors. They have put together strong foundations. The first year has been quite successful. ... We all need to stay behind this university. We have a very strong president and his team is strong.”

Leslie will also receive a copy of the formal letter SACSCOC mailed to UTRGV.

On Jan. 5, Bailey met with local officials to discuss campus issues, including UTRGV’s accreditation.

About 100 Brownsville leaders attended the address, which was held at the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón in Brownsville.

Among the attendees was Brownsville Mayor Tony Martinez, who said he is not concerned about the probation status of UTRGV.

“I am not concerned about that. I was very familiar with what they were doing to begin with the accreditation,” Martinez said after the meeting. “The process seems to be the issue and you can correct procedure.”

Asked what he would say to the campus community regarding the recent news of the probationary status, Bailey replied it will be taken care of in a year and UTRGV will remain a high-quality institution.

“First, UTRGV remains fully accredited. There were some issues involved in the transition that need to be dealt with and we intend to deal with them over the next year,” Bailey said. “We think this is just a blip on the screen and within a year this will all be taken care of. For right now, nobody’s degree is affected, nobody’s education; we’re still the same high-quality institution we were and it’s something we’ll get through.”

Lopez said she would like UTRGV administrators to be transparent about any updates regarding the school’s probationary status.

“[Administrators] should have students more informed of what’s really going on, I guess, like the process, you know, and everything that is happening right now and what’s going to happen later on,” she said. “If something bad happens, let’s say hopefully not, it’s going to come back to us and we’re, in a way, the ones that sustain the university because it’s the students that pay for it.”

--Jesus Sanchez contributed to this report.

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Ansiedad por acreditación

UTRGV en espera de carta de Comisión de estándares

Bryan Ramos
EDITOR DE NOTICIAS

Maricruz López, una estudiante de último año de biología en UTRGV, no sólo está preocupada en encontrar un trabajo después de graduación, sino también en que los jefes no la considerarán para la posición por el estatus de acreditación de su escuela.

“Me preocupa mucho porque me hace [reconsiderar] la calidad de la educación de la universidad y en como afectará mi futuro cuando me gradúe”, dijo López, quien se graduará en mayo. “Realmente me afecta, supongo, pensando, ‘bueno, ¿Qué pasará si la universidad [no es acreditada]? ¿Qué pasará con todo por lo que he trabajado?’”

En diciembre, la Comisión de Universidades de la Asociación Sureña de Colegios y Escuelas, (SACSCOC, por sus siglas en inglés) puso a UTRGV bajo un período de prueba de un año por fallar en demostrar el cumplimiento de varios estándares de acreditación.

SACSCOC es el cuerpo regional para la acreditación de las instituciones de educación superior que otorga títulos en los estados del sur.

En una declaración de divulgación dada por el SACSCOC el 15 de diciembre acerca del estatus de UTRGV se establece que, “El período de prueba es la sanción más seria impuesta por el consejo de administración de la SACSCOC después de la pérdida de acreditación. Puede ser impuesta en una institución por fallar en corregir significantes deficiencias en el incumplimiento de los Requisitos Básicos, Estándar Integral, o Requisitos Federales de los Principios de Acreditación de la Comisión; o el incumplimiento de las políticas y procedimientos de la Comisión”.

El pasado miércoles, la SACSCOC mandó una carta formal por correo, la cual la universidad espera recibir durante esta semana, explicando los resultados del consejo de administración y detallando las especificaciones de las violaciones.

Las violaciones son las siguientes:

- Integridad (Principio 1.1)
- Aceptación de créditos académicos (Estándar integral 3.4.4)
- Relaciones de consorcios / Acuerdos contractuales (Estándar integral 3.4.7)
- Créditos institucionales para la Licenciatura (Estándar integral 3.5.2)
- Créditos institucionales para la Maestría (Estándar integral 3.6.3)
- Auditoria de ayuda financiera (Estándar integral 3.10.2)
- Cambio sustantivo (Estándar integral 3.12.1)
- Cumplimiento de política de Publicidad, Reclutamiento de Estudiantes, y la Representación de la Acreditación de clase (Estándar integral 3.13)
- Publicación de Estado de Acreditación (Estándar integral 3.14.1)
- Materiales de reclutamiento (Requisito Federal 4.6)

Pamela Cravey, coordinadora de Comunicaciones y Relaciones Externas de SACSCOC, dijo no poder dar detalles pertinentes a la violación de integridad, sin embargo, una política de integridad y precisión en Representación Institucional establece que:

“La integridad, básica para el propósito de educación superior, funciona como el contrato básico que define la relación entre la Comisión y cada uno de sus miembros



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

e instituciones candidatas. Es una relación en la cual todos los participantes acceden a lidiar honesta y abiertamente con su electorado y el uno con el otro. Sin este compromiso, ninguna relación puede existir o ser sostenida entre la comisión y sus instituciones acreditadas y candidatas”.

En diciembre del 2017, UTRGV será evaluado por el consejo de administración de SACSCOC, la cual considerará el estatus de acreditación de la universidad después de una evaluación del reporte de monitoreo entregado por la institución abordando los estándares citados por incumplimiento, y el reporte de un comité especial que visitará la institución en otoño del 2017.

El rector de UTRGV, Guy Bailey, tiene experiencia lidiando con una universidad puesta a prueba. Cuando Bailey se convirtió en rector de Texas Tech en el 2008, la universidad se encontraba a medio año del período de prueba. En diciembre de ese año, SACSCOC removió Texas Tech de dicho período.

“Bueno, la cosa más importante que tienes que hacer es trabajar cuidadosamente uno por uno con SACSCOC”, dijo él. “Estas cuestiones, con cuestiones técnicas, realmente, que tienen que ver con la transición a UTRGV y la separación de UT Brownsville y Texas Southsot College. Trabajaremos cuidadosamente con SACSCOC y nos aseguraremos que se haga lo que se tenga que hacer. Hasta que eso ocurra, estamos completamente acreditados y anticipamos nunca estarlo en ningún otro estado”.

Bailey se reunió con el comité ejecutivo del Senado de la Facultad de UTRGV el mes pasado para discutir el estado de prueba de la escuela.

La presidenta de la facultad, Bobbette Morgan, le dijo al *Rider*, que Bailey fue franco con la facultad en su junta del 9 de diciembre, “De hecho, conforme empezamos la junta, el solo dijo ‘bueno, déjenme compartir con ustedes lo que tengo hasta ahorita’”. Morgan dijo que, “Había copias preparadas para nosotros con las notas exactas que [UTRGV] había recibido de [SACSCOC]. ... Fue muy abierto con nosotros y solo compartió el material directamente”.

El *Rider* pidió una copia de estas notas y la cronología de la creación

de UTRGV que Bailey compartió con el senado de la facultad pero hasta el tiempo de publicación, el periódico no ha recibido el material.

Morgan dijo que ella y los miembros del senado de la facultad discutieron la junta con Bailey y todos acordaron que estaba siendo transparente y honesto con ellos.

Ella dijo al *Rider* que no todos los miembros del senado de facultad compartieron la misma opinión de estado de prueba de UTRGV.

“Nada más porque los oficiales son unánimes en algo no significa que todos estamos de acuerdo. ... Todos tienen su opinión propia”, Morgan dijo. “Hay compañeros que están siguiendo muy de cerca, como deberían, para ver como la administración reacciona y lidia con esto”.

Después dela reunión con el senado de facultad, Bailey dijo que estaba justamente preocupado pero se mantuvo útil y solidario.

“Son muy útiles y solidarios. Como todos están preocupados pero no excesivamente”, Bailey dijo. “Están bien conscientes de que este tipo de cosas pasan todo el tiempo. La University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, superó el período de prueba el día que nosotros entramos, la University of Louisville entró en período de prueba de igual manera, así que no es poco común, así que la facultad entiende eso, han sido muy útiles”.

Morgan dijo que el senado declaró que ayudará a la administración de UTRGV de cualquier manera que pueda con esta situación de período de prueba.

“Sin duda alguna, estamos dispuestos a ayudar de cualquier manera que nos pidan para ayudar”, ella dijo.

Morgan también mencionó que Steven Leslie, vice canceller ejecutivo de asuntos académicos del sistema UT, asistirá a UTRGV.

“Mi rol es apoyar al campus de todas las maneras que el rector y preboste necesiten”, dijo Leslie en una entrevista el martes.

Él dijo creer que Bailey, el preboste de UTRGV, Havidán Rodríguez y el resto de los administradores de la escuela, están completamente capacitados, de lidiar y abordar con el asunto del período de prueba.

“De parte del sistema UT, estamos muy orgullosos de como la universidad de Texas del Rio Grande Valley abrió sus puertas. Tienen bases fuertes. El

primer año ha sido bastante exitoso. ... Todos necesitamos apoyar a esta universidad. Tenemos un rector muy fuerte con un equipo muy fuerte”.

Leslie también recibirá una copia de la carta formal que la SACSCOC mandó a UTRGV.

El 5 de enero, Bailey se reunió con oficiales locales para discutir asuntos del campus, incluyendo la acreditación de UTRGV.

Acerca de 100 líderes de Brownsville asistieron a la dirección la cual fue celebrada en el PlainsCapital Bank, Gran Salón en Brownsville.

Entre los asistentes estuvo el presidente municipal de Brownsville, Tony Martínez, quien dijo no estar preocupado por el período de prueba de UTRGV.

“No estoy preocupado por eso. Estaba muy familiarizado con lo que estaban haciendo para empezar con la acreditación”, Martínez dijo después de la reunión. “El proceso parece ser el problema y puedes corregir el procedimiento”.

Al ser preguntado qué le diría a la comunidad del campus, acerca de las noticias recientes del estado de prueba, Bailey contestó que se resolvería en un año y que UTRGV seguirá siendo una institución de alta calidad.

Primero, UTRGV se mantiene completamente acreditada. Hubo algunos problemas implicados en la transición que necesitan ser atendidos y que serán resueltos en el curso de un año”, dijo Bailey. “Pensamos que esto es solo una piedra en el zapato y en el transcurso de un año será resuelto. Por el momento, el título de nadie se verá afectado, la educación de nadie se verá afectada; seguimos siendo la misma institución de alta calidad que éramos y es algo que superaremos”.

López dijo que le gustaría que los administradores fueran transparentes sobre cualquier actualización sobre el período de prueba de la escuela.

“[Administradores] deberían tener a los estudiantes más informados sobre lo que está pasando, supongo, como el proceso, ya sabes, sobre todo lo que está pasando ahorita y lo que pasará más adelante”, dijo ella. “Si algo malo pasa, esperemos que no, nosotros somos lo que de una manera sostenemos a la universidad porque los estudiantes somos los que pagamos por ella.

--Jesús Sánchez contribuyó con este reportaje.

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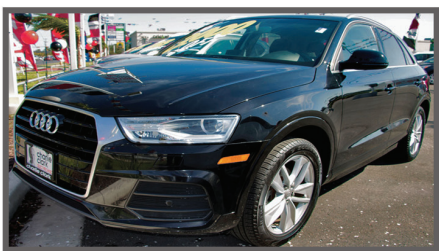
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5 Popular New Year's resolutions

Sergio Garcia
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

1. Get in shape.
Probably the most popular resolution in the list, losing weight is always a priority for many. Yes, going to the gym is key; however, you can start living a healthier life by eating better and staying hydrated. Remember that everyone is different, so don't get discouraged if the process is slow. Keep going, seek help if you need advice and stay positive.

2. Stop procrastinating.
Is college possible without a little procrastination? Probably, but there's no doubt that it is hard to accomplish. Regardless of the excuse, most procrastinate at one point or another in school or work. You might have your own ways to fight procrastination, or maybe you don't because you are procrastinating about it. In any case, here are some quick tips: Make "to do" lists, plan ahead, seek good quality, not perfection, create reminders or set alarms in your phone, which could help you stop procrastinating when you are using it



SERGIO GARCIA/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

the opportunity to form your own opinions, expand your mind and explore diversity, so don't worry too much about what you wear unless you have to. Wear whatever you like as long as you don't break school policies; you don't want to get in trouble, either.

5. Money.
Saving more, earning more or spending more is always the million-dollar question. Many minimum wage jobs don't offer a pay rate increase unless you receive a promotion, which might prove hard to do while trying to balance your social and academic life. While saving is a great alternative, it's not always possible. Regardless of how we would like to utilize some extra cash, we often find ourselves wanting to do or acquire something. Yes, not everyone is in need of or wants more money, but if you find yourself in that situation always remember that you are getting an education, which will open many doors at one point or another, so aim high, dream big and succeed.

TRUMP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

individuals," May told the *Independent* last Tuesday. "I've had two very good, positive conversations with Donald Trump already. ... [This] relationship will benefit both the U.S. and the U.K."

Though many thought that he would lose to Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, he won the election with his slogan, "MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN." His business background and "I-won't-take-no-for-an-answer" attitude, could potentially win over those who voted against him.

Sergio Sanchez, chairman of the Hidalgo County Republican Party, will not attend the inauguration but said he hopes that once Trump takes office, he will bring a more determined focus on border security, illegal immigration and try to fix the broken visa system.

"I also hope that the Obamacare gets replaced," said Sanchez, program

director at KURV-AM 710. "My dream would be that they didn't put any caps so it allows families to receive those benefits and incentivize the market to open up more clinics."

He said people don't need to be taxed more to create a health care district, which Hidalgo County voters rejected in the Nov. 8 election. Instead, the government should be smarter on how it spends the

tax money.

“Perhaps, since this is a business guy who is taking over the White House, somebody needs to get to him and incentivize these doctors to open their own wallets to create some cash clinics and 24-hour care clinics that are affordable.”

Sergio Sanchez
Hidalgo County Republican Party Chairman

“Perhaps, since this is a business guy who is taking over the White House, somebody needs to get to him and incentivize these doctors to open their own wallets to create some cash clinics and 24-hour care clinics that are affordable,” Sanchez said.

He expressed his concern for Rio Grande Valley residents and how doctors could make the investment to open affordable cash

clinics for the public so they are not charged “an arm and a leg for scrapes and bruises” in an emergency room.

“We need business-type ideas,” he said. “The government cannot and should not be burdened with solving everything. We need some real ideas up there.”

Jose Garcia, a political science senior and president of the Young Republicans at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, said he planned to attend, but because of his class schedule, he would not be going to the inauguration.

“[The Young Republicans] are excited to see what 2017 and what these next four years have in store for the country,” Garcia said. “We hope that the Congress and the president will be able to pass legislation that will benefit the entire country.”

Trump lost the popular vote in the election by more than 2 million votes, but became the president-elect due to the country's unique Electoral College.

WELCOME

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Brownsville,” Venegas said. “We are giving students a card, we will be having several tables set up around campus and we will be inviting them to go to each department. Each department will provide them with a breakfast snack or breakfast item and then they will receive a stamp. The people that fill out the entire card will be entered into a raffle of 100 V-Bucks.”

The Toss for Luck is an event happening throughout the week. Students can toss a coin in the Main Water Fountain on the Brownsville campus and in the Chapel of the Lord Fountain in Edinburg and wish for good fortune for the semester ahead.

On Tuesday, it's time for the Throwdown.

“On Tuesday, we will host it at the TSC [Rec Center] in Brownsville and Thursday, here in the Ballroom [in Edinburg],” Venegas said. “We are having games and activities, a DJ, a photo booth, plus all the student organizations and departments.”

Cesar Garcia, a criminal justice junior on the Brownsville campus, said he plans to attend the Campfire Bash.

“I haven't gone to many school events. Now that I am a junior, and almost done, I feel like I should start,” Garcia said. “I think the events are a good way of getting to know the campus and what it has to offer for students. I'm actually down for the Campfire Bash, really.”

At the Campfire Bash, happening from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday on both campuses, students can enjoy music, free food and activities provided by University Recreation.

“It's pretty much a big involvement fair to welcome back students but we are also inviting departments and organizations to participate,” Venegas said about the Bash. “We want to create that sense of belonging with the students, and that they feel that they did the right choice coming to UTRGV. So by having these events, by providing these events, it's just for them to have fun.”

For more information about Week of Welcome and to see the full list of events and activities, visit <http://www.utrgv.edu/involvement/student-activities/pride-and-traditions/week-of-welcome/index.htm> or call 665-2660 in Edinburg or 882-5111 in Brownsville.

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE RIDER?
LET US KNOW AT
882-5143 OR 665-2541

Meet Sharon Helsley-McGinley

Name: Sharon Helsley-McGinley
Title: Clinical associate professor
Department: Nursing
Education: Master’s degree in nursing from UT Health Science Center in Houston
Hometown: Port Isabel
Family: Two daughters: Shannon, a UTRGV student, and Sheldan McGinley, a Texas Southmost College student

How long have you been a professor with the UT System? “I was hired in 1993 at what was then UTB/TSC and when we divided the two schools, I went with UTB in 2013 and worked for them for two years and was fortunate enough when UTB and UT Pan Am came together to create UTRGV, to hire on and work with them. So, I’ve worked 24 years with the UT System.”

What made you pursue teaching? “When I first came to the Valley, I was surprised that there was a lot of traveling nurses and sponsorship nurses from other countries and other parts of the United States. Very few local individuals and, so, I felt like we needed to facilitate, have some homegrown nurses who have some pride about nursing and the residents. So, that motivated me to want to teach and I happened to meet a mentor, Dr. Edna Garza-Escobedo, who’s a well-known local nurse who recruited me and told me, ‘Just try it on, for one semester,’ and here I am 24 years later.”

What brought you to UTRGV? “Well, I think that there were other options with teaching nursing, but it sounded like there were some exciting things that were going to be happening with UTRGV and I wanted to be a part of that.”

What do you do for your students? “The main goal that we have when we teach nursing is to help them prepare for the licensing exam, which is called the NCLEX-RN. And so, what I do is help through teaching leadership and med surg to help prepare them for that through a clinical aspect.”

What classes do you teach? “Well, currently I have been fortunate enough to teach med surg, leadership and some RN to BSN completion programs, which are some mobility courses.”

What are the goals you most want to accomplish in your work? “I think that, for me, what I would like to do is to have the ability to have students be able to graduate and pass their NCLEX and, hopefully, continue with their academic journey. So, the goals in my work are to keep those students motivated to want to continue on to a higher education because the more nurses we have locally that do that, the more intact the health care system comes to be, and, maybe, inspiring them to go on and do research or publishing and things of that nature.”



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

What was the last book you read? “I like biographies and I have a tendency to read several at one time, so I’m actually in the middle of two or three of them right now, but I love reading the concept of leadership that inspires people to excel and to put their mark on history.”

What do you like to do in your free time? “I’m so in love with the beach, anything that has to do with the beach, whether it’s searching for turtles or dolphins or watching the sunset or sunrise. Anything that has to do with the beach, that’s my thing. The other thing that I like to do is travel.”

What kind of music/artists do you like? “It depends on what I’m doing and what I’m inspired to want to, want to accomplish because if I’m studying, I like to listen to classical music. If I’m doing housework, domestic chores, I like to listen to Pitbull and some of the modern and more contemporary musicians. And then, if I’m on the road and I want to sing along, then I turn on some country. So, it depends on what I’m doing on what kind of music I like to listen to.”

What are a couple of fun facts about you? “I’ve been to almost all 50 states, but two; somehow I missed

Oregon and I have yet to go to Alaska. So, I’ve done 48 of the 50 states, so that’s probably the most interesting thing about me. The other thing is that I’m the cliché. I love cats but I also love dogs, so I’m an animal lover as well.”

When you think of the future of nursing, what gives you a sense of hope? What makes you concerned or worried?

“I think the thing that makes me worry is the fact that we’re changing so much with technology that we’re losing some components of nursing and we have to realign and keep focusing on the concepts of caring because I think as

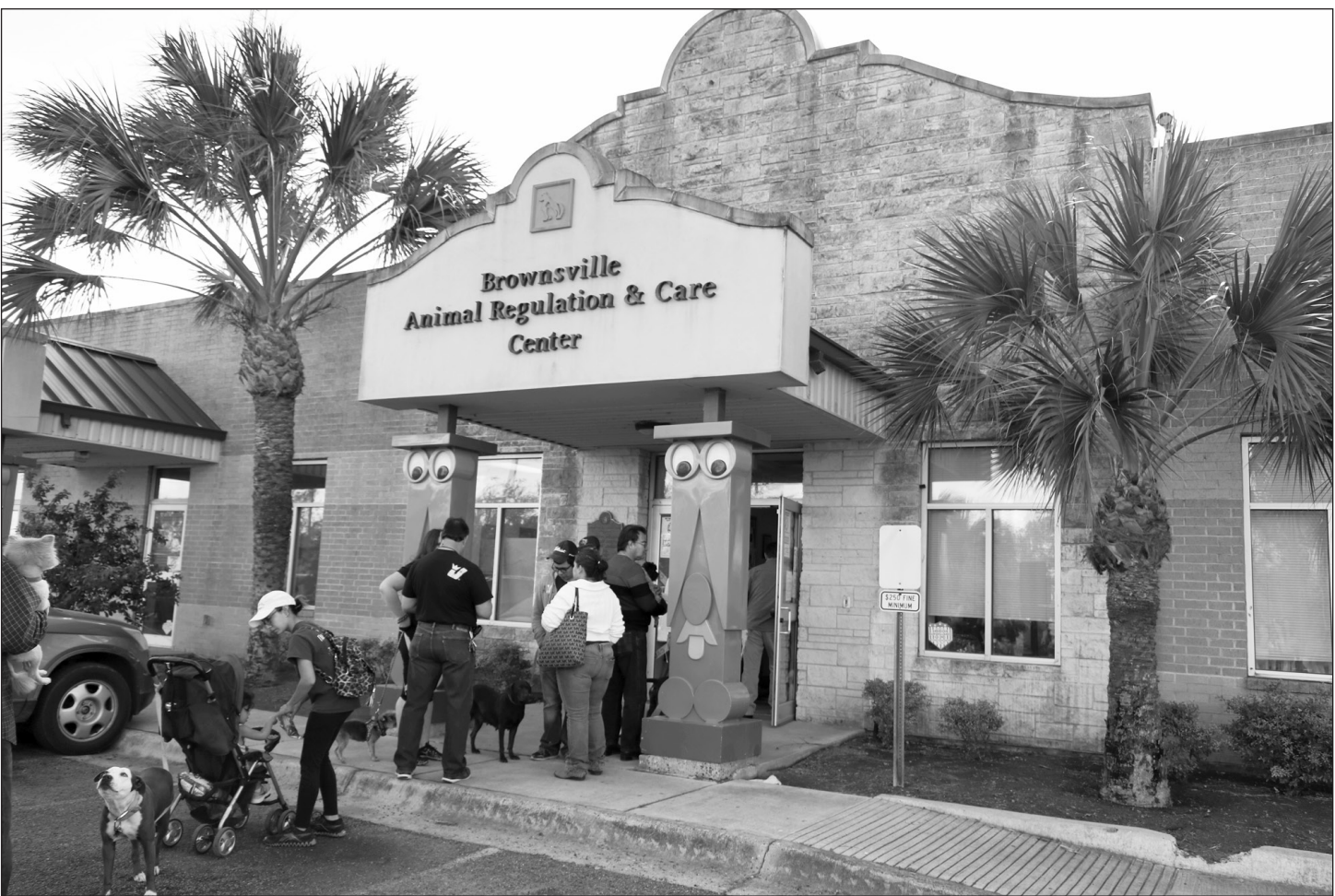
we get into technology, the fact of caring kind of goes by wayside. So, I’m very concerned that if we get too involved with taking care of the technology, we’re going to forget about taking care of the patient and that we’re going to lose that caring aspect. What I’m inspired about is also technology, because the information, we can always get the newest information out there at the touch of a finger, which is kind of nice in some way. So as much as what concerns me is also what gives me some comfort, is the technology.”

What advice would you give to students? “I think first of all, if you want to choose nursing as your career, be prepared to really work hard. I’ve seen some feedback from colleges across the country and nursing is supposed to be one of the hardest disciplines right now, one of the toughest ones to pursue. So, I would say keep your goal in mind. Always remember that there is a light at the end of the tunnel and the hard work will pay off.”

Would you like to add anything else? “I just want to say that it’s wonderful to be a student and be involved in education. There are so many opportunities right now here in the Rio Grande Valley and I think students do appreciate those opportunities and I would just say keep pursuing your dreams.”

--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza

Chip it or ticket



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Pet owners wait in line Jan. 9 to have a microchip placed in their dogs at the Brownsville Animal Regulation and Care Center, located at 416 FM 511. All dogs and cats over the age of 4 months are required to have a microchip in order to comply with a new city ordinance, SEC. 10-1133, or risk getting a \$250 citation. The care center will only place microchips between 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. each Monday. The cost is \$5. Pet owners must provide proof of current rabies vaccination. Cats must be in a carrier and dogs on a leash. For more information, call 544-7351.

Looking back on sports in 2016



Bryan Ramos
NEWS EDITOR

The year in sports was a wild one in 2016. Curses were broken, kings were crowned and stars were born.

The U.S. loves watching a car crash, so it makes sense that football, a sport largely loved for its human car crashes, claims a top spot among the country's favorite forms of entertainment--shhh, don't tell Meryl Streep.

The NFL playoffs are here and America's Golden Boy and America's Team have dominated the headlines most of the year. Tom Brady came back to light up the league after serving his four-game suspension for playing with deflated balls. In Dallas, the Cowboys and star rookies Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott burst onto the scene in a major way when Tony Romo went down with a broken back to lead Dallas to its best record in 10 years.

This is being written before the Cowboys and Packers play, so if Dallas wins, I told you so, and if they lose, it's another conspiracy by Roger Goodell to keep the Cowboys from glory.

In college football, the University of Alabama, a perennial powerhouse who had won four of the last seven national championships, gave up 21 points in the fourth quarter in this year's College

Playoff National Championship to lose a rematch against the Clemson Tigers. I love to see a favorite lose, except when it's the Cowboys, Duke basketball or the Spurs.

On the diamond, the Chicago Cubs won the World Series in dramatic fashion for the first time in 109 years, breaking the "Curse of the Billy Goat" and bringing the Commissioner's

Leonard is an evolving robot showing human emotion (be scared), and the Warriors are still the Warriors only with Kevin Durant, so everybody is rooting against them that much more.

We also saw the death of two of the world's greatest fighters in 2016, Muhammad Ali and Ronda Rousey. The way Rousey blocked Amanda Nunes' punches with her face was not

“ We also saw the death of two of the world's greatest fighters in 2016, Muhammad Ali and Ronda Rousey. The way Rousey blocked Amanda Nunes' punches with her face was not the soundest strategy. ”

Trophy to the north side of the Windy City. Now, Steve Bartman and all billy goats can finally come out of hiding and feel safe again.

In the National Basketball Association, the Warriors blew a 3-1 lead in the NBA finals last summer. Never, ever forget that, for as long as you live. Ever. LeBron James is the King again, James Harden and Russell Westbrook are putting up video game statistics on a nightly basis, Kawhi

the soundest strategy; she's been a pioneer for women's mixed martial arts and will go down in the history books and I hope she never steps in the cage again. Here's to hoping we get the fight everybody wants to see, Chris Brown versus Soulja Boy.

2017 can't get any crazier, can it? What's that you say? Donald Trump is the president of the United States? Wow--maybe it will be the year of the Cleveland Browns--too far? Sorry.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER

Name: Bernesha Peters

Sport: Basketball

Position: Guard

Classification: Sophomore

Major: Communication

Age: 19

Hometown: Houston

Who is your favorite athlete? "I would say Kobe Bryant because no matter what, he always plays hard."

Who is your role model? "My mother because she grew up doing things on her own, so she taught me how to be an independent woman."

When did you begin playing basketball, and why? "I began playing basketball when I was 5 because of my older brothers."

What's your favorite place to hang out on campus? "I would say Jazzman's because it's just peaceful there and it smells really good."

What are your academic goals? "My academic goals are to get a 4.0 GPA and graduate at the top of the class."

How do you feel about being part of this team? "I feel comfortable. I get along with the girls very well. We're all from different places, but it's kinda cool to know different things that go on on the road with different people."

What are your personal goals for this season? "My personal goals are to win the WAC championship and go all the way with it. I'm going to try to get Player of the Year, and just be a big part of my team and get them to the championship."

--Compiled by Sarah Carvajal

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7 P.M. JAN. 21 SATURDAY

MEN'S BASKETBALL

CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

UTRGV FIELDHOUSE

TBA JAN. 26 THURSDAY

WOMEN'S TENNIS

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ORVILLE I. COX TENNIS CENTER

7 P.M.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

UTRGV FIELDHOUSE

7 P.M. JAN. 28 SATURDAY

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

UTRGV FIELDHOUSE

HOME GAMES



Green light from downtown

Sophomore among NCAA's top marksmen

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

Sometimes setting the bar high hurts an athlete. A strong freshman season can give way to a disappointing sophomore slump. UTRGV's Antonio Green is skipping every type of slump and improving on a strong first year.

A year ago, Green's inaugural college season was impressive. In 25 games as a freshman, he deposited 289 points, 11.6 per game. His play and stat line earned him WAC Freshman of the Year honors.

This season, with a new-look team and new head coach, he's been able to settle in further. Green leads the team in points with 18.3 per game, as well as 4.4 three-pointers made per game.

He drained 75 three-pointers through 17 non-conference games, more than any player in NCAA Division I. He has attempted 176 shots from behind the three-point line, which is second in Division 1.

Only one person in the country, Damon Lynn from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, has attempted more three-pointers than Green. For Head Coach Lew Hill, it's totally acceptable because of how often he converts.

"It's what he does best," Hill said, condoning his volume shooter's habits. "If he's open, that's what he does best. That's his strength right now."

The 6-foot-2-inch combo guard leads UTRGV in scoring, a year after being second to Shaquille Hines, who has since graduated. Green credits his coaches for allowing him to shoot when he feels open. Getting the green light to shoot at will goes a long way to help the confidence of a volume shooter.

"Consistency and confidence, I put in a lot of work over the summertime," the Mississippi native said. "My coaching staff and my teammates believe in me to keep shooting, so that's what I do. A lot of repetition over the summertime paying off."

On average, he is taking 4.7 shots per game, and 4.2 more three-point attempts than a season ago. Green believes his shooting helps open offensive opportunities for the rest of his team.

"I feel like [my three-point shooting] spreads the floor. Puts a lot of attention on myself and makes it easier on my teammates," Green said. "Just me alone can make us a three-point threat. Me having all the attention creates open three-pointers for everyone else."

The rest of the roster has made 89 three-pointers. On Dec. 29 against Our Lady of the Lake University, the team made a program-record 19 threes. Green had nine.

One of those teammates who has been benefiting from a better offense under Hill is Nick Dixon. He has made 18 of his own behind the arc, as well as averaging 16.9 points a



PHOTO COURTESY JOE MURPHY

Antonio Green shoots a three-pointer against the University of Memphis in an away game. The sophomore leads the NCAA in three-pointers made. He needs 114 three-pointers to break the program record set in 1999-2000.

game.

"It rubs off on everybody," said Dixon, an Illinois native. "We see Antonio knocking down threes. [For] everybody else, it gets kind of contagious. Teams start to focus on him more, so they close out and try to send two at him. It opens up shots from other places."

Dixon is a player who primarily drives the ball, which gives him the option to score or rack up assists. He had 59

leading up to non-conference.

"Volume shooting is OK, as long as it's good volume shooting. [Coach Hill] would rather for us to shoot it than turn down the open shot," Dixon said.

Hill confirmed what his guard said about wanting to take open shots as a team. The first-year coach said Green, as a constant threat, changes the landscape of an offense.

"It opens up the game for you. It opens up the inside, opens up for other people to get easy bas-

ket," Hill said. "And we want to shoot threes, we want to shoot uncontested threes. We will take any open threes; we work on those. I want my guys to feel comfortable as long as we're wide open."

Green's torrid pace of three-pointers could put him among some of the NCAA's best if he's able to hit almost four a game as the season progresses. That will become increasingly difficult as WAC defenses adjust to his attack.

"I definitely feel like the teams in the WAC are going to take a chance. I think it will be a lot of defenses thrown at me, so we'll have to see," Green said, referring to the potential of tight conference defense.

Green and the Vaqueros will be home again at 7 p.m. Saturday, hosting Chicago State University in their fifth match of the WAC campaign.

Nearly 300 Zika cases in Texas

Monika Garza
THE RIDER

As of last Thursday, Texas had 298 Zika cases, including 16 in Cameron County, according to the Department of State Health Services.

Last month, the Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services reported a total of 16 Zika cases. Six are local and 10 are travel-related cases.

“Since we began tracking in December of 2015 ... 16 cases [have been found] in Cameron County. That is 16 in total, so that would include the six local cases and 10 travel-related cases,” said Chris Van Deusen, media director at the Texas Department of State Health Services in Austin.

In November 2016, a 43-year-old woman from Brownsville tested positive for the Zika virus and reported no recent travel. She was not pregnant.

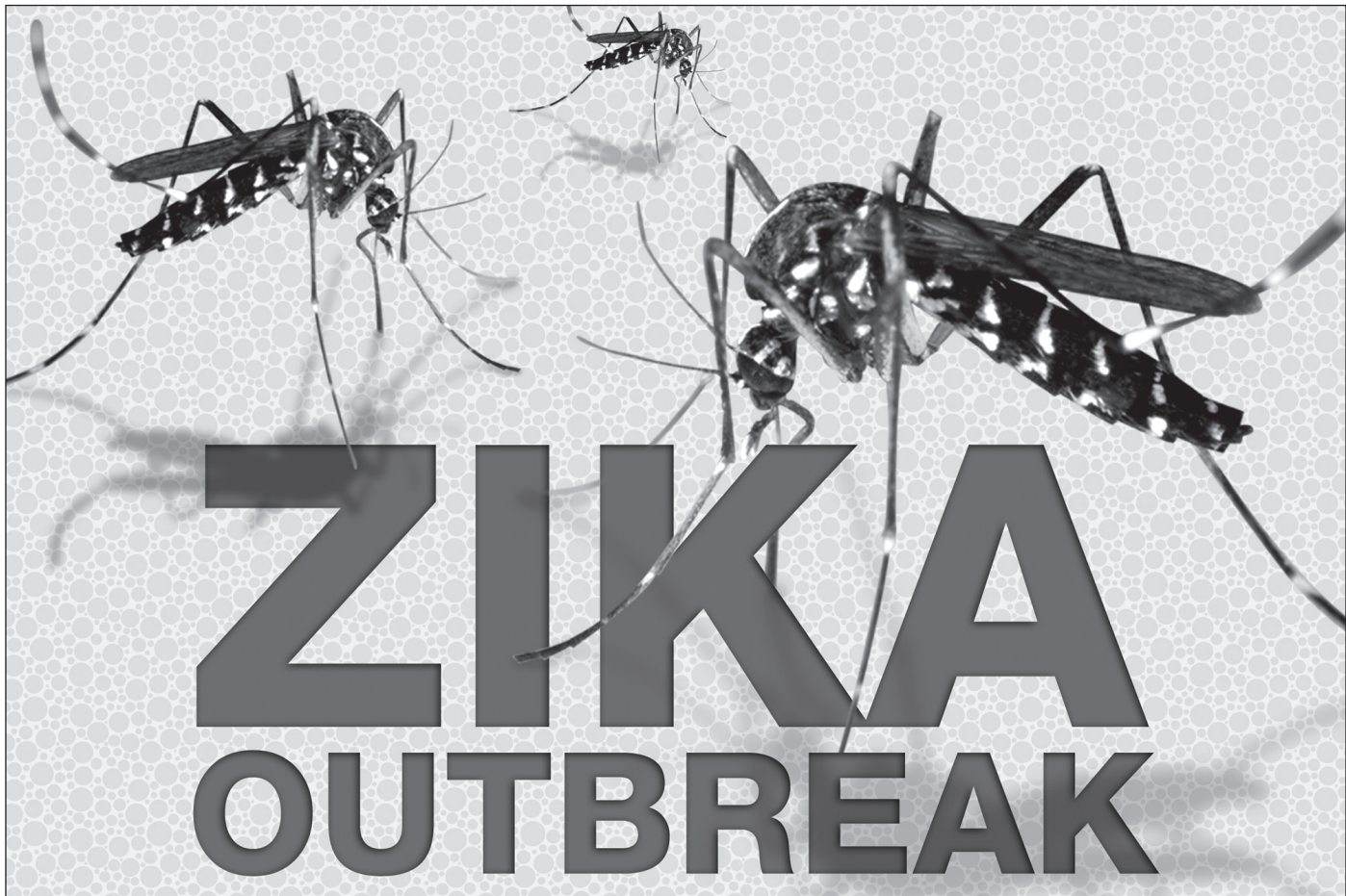
“The first case was identified, you know, a woman got sick and went to the doctor and the very astute doctor thought it seemed like Zika and ordered a Zika test. That led to response by the local health department and the City of Brownsville mosquito control and, of course, our department as well to go door-to-door in the neighborhood around where that first patient lives and talk to people about Zika,” Van Deusen said.

The door-to-door education effort led by Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services found four more individuals who tested positive between the 14th Street and International Boulevard area in Brownsville, Van Deusen said.

The individuals did not show Zika symptoms when the public health workers conducted the education effort.

“[They] didn’t have symptoms when first the public health workers went to visit them. But, they got sick very shortly after that and they recognized the symptoms as possibly being Zika. ... They got tested and it turns out that they were indeed cases of Zika,” Van Deusen said.

As previously reported by *The Rider*, in 2015, a 57-year-old woman from Brownsville traveled to Chiapas, Mexico, over the Christmas holidays



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

and contracted the virus, making it the first possible traveled-related case in the Rio Grande Valley.

Marco Lozano, director of Health Emergency Response at the Cameron

unspecified were looked at again and this case, in particular, was reclassified from flavivirus unspecified to a probable Zika virus disease,” Lozano said in a September interview with *The*

women who live in Brownsville or visit Brownsville should be tested,” Van Deusen said. “We are testing people anywhere in the state and we have been doing that most of the year throughout public health labs throughout the state of Texas and, of course, private labs are doing it, too.”

UTRGV Biology Associate Professor Christopher Vitek said the major concern about contracting the virus is for women who are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.

“For the vast majority of people, Zika is actually asymptomatic, meaning people who are infected with the disease are not going to know it; they are not going to show any symptoms. The concern is for women who are pregnant or plan to become pregnant because of the effects the Zika virus may have for the developing fetus,” Vitek said.

Wearing light-colored clothing and using mosquito repellent are measures to prevent contracting the virus, Vitek said.

“ The concern is for women who are pregnant or plan to become pregnant because of the effects the Zika virus may have for the developing fetus. ”

Christopher Vitek
Biology Associate Professor

County Department of Health and Human Services, told *The Rider* the first travel-related case was diagnosed as a flavivirus unspecified.

“On Sept.1, there was a reclassification of definition from the Texas Department of State Health Services. Based on the reclassification, all cases in 2015 that were flavivirus

Rider.

The four common Zika symptoms are rash, fever, conjunctivitis and joint pain.

“Right now, we are encouraging anyone who has Zika symptoms, and that would be three or more Zika symptoms, anywhere in the state to be tested for Zika. ... All pregnant

What should I major in?

Throughout this academic year, *The Rider* will explore the programs of study at UTRGV. This is the seventh in a series. The Rider interviewed Jennifer Lemanski, Communication Department associate chair, for information.

Major: Communication

School: College of Liberal Arts

Department Chair: John Cook

Prerequisites: None

Total credit hours needed to graduate: 120

What is communications? “Communications is a very broad discipline which has many different opportunities for people in lots of different fields in the future. We actually have a total of five degree plans within our department, so there is a lot of room for specialization. Communications is really getting messages out to people and receiving messages from them so that you’re really understanding the meaning and able to further your understanding between people and groups.”

Which classes can students expect to take? “We have three mass communication degree plans. One is print journalism, one is broadcast journalism and one is a combined advertising and [public relations] track. Then, we have a communication studies concentration. In addition, we have two teacher certifications. One

is in [communication] studies and one is in mass communications. If you decide on one of the three mass communications tracks, you would take Introduction to Mass Communication, Visual Communication and Writing for the Mass Media. Then, they would do either print, which is newspaper or magazine, broadcast, which is TV and radio or advertising/PR. In the communication studies, they would focus on the interpersonal organizational communication, public speaking, those sorts of things. Then, for the teacher certifications, we actually don’t have many people go through those, but they are more of a general communication studies or mass communications with education courses also.”

What skills will students learn by the time they graduate? “Well, they’ll learn effective ways of communicating. They’ll learn how to tailor their communication to different audiences, which is very important when you’re in mass communication or communication studies. I think that’s one of the biggest and most important

things. You need to know your target audience, whether you’re going to be giving a speech or you are writing a newspaper article. You want them to understand and be interested in what you’re trying to say.”

What are some possible careers? “With communication studies, we have a lot of people ending up going into teaching. We also have people who do training and consulting for organizations. With a degree in communications, you also open yourself up to some managerial positions or advising. It’s a lot of working with people and interacting on a person-to-person basis in communication studies. And, then with mass communications, we have a lot of event planning. We have people working at *The Monitor* and various radio stations. We have people that are journalists, copy editors and some start their own advertising business, so there are a lot of different opportunities. Communication is helpful for any career.”

Who are some possible employers? “Any local newspapers or magazines. Some people leave the

Valley, but most of them stay here. School districts, not only teaching, but also their communication offices will hire. It’s almost limitless. I’ve seen people work at doctors’ offices as well.”

What salary can a student expect to earn after graduation? “In the Valley, since the cost of living is so low, the salaries may be a little lower than they would be in the bigger cities. I would probably say about [\$27,000] to \$30,000.”

Are there any student clubs? “We have two clubs that are ongoing. There’s an advertising club and there’s a chapter of PRSSA, which is the Public Relations Student Society of America. I think Dr. [Greg] Selber may be having more of a print journalism club that they’re trying to start up.”

For more information: contact Lemanski at jennifer.lemanski@utrgv.edu or call the department at 665-3583 for Edinburg and 882-8297 for Brownsville.

--Compiled by Sarah Carvajal

Going Hollywood

TV and film producer from Edinburg shares her journey

Brenda Garza

THE RIDER

There are people in this world, including some in the Rio Grande Valley, who are afraid to step out of the box. Yet, Sandra Avila, an Edinburg native, had no such problem doing that.

Avila is an accomplished TV and film producer and president and CEO of Avila Entertainment, which is based in Los Angeles, where she now resides.

Avila Entertainment, her startup production company, was in charge of “Endgame,” a movie based on true events and most of which was filmed in Brownsville.

“Endgame” is an inspiring film on centered deprived public school students from Brownsville who go on to become chess champions. The story tackles deportation, broken family bonds, as well as teenage death.

Rico Rodriguez, a cast member of ABC’s “Modern Family,” and Efren Ramirez, better known for his role as Pedro in “Napoleon Dynamite,” star in the film, as well as chess students from the Brownsville area.

“[The children] seemed to really love it,” Avila said. “We paid them, so they got to make their own money. We bought them little iPads and they had a great relationship with Efren and Rico.”

Although Avila’s journey to success seems far from reach, that couldn’t be further from the truth. Many people can relate to her story.

She grew up in Edinburg and graduated from Edinburg High School. Avila helped her grandmother, Jovita Garza, in her family’s bakery, Magnolia Bakery.

“That was my first job,” she said.

After graduating from Edinburg High School, she attended St. Mary’s University and received her bachelor’s degree in public justice pre-law and psychology.

Yet, after receiving her law degree from Loyola University College of Law in New Orleans, Avila said she wanted to figure out what she wanted to do with her life. So, she moved back to Texas and took five years to decide just that.

“I loved television,” she said. “I loved media [and] film. I just didn’t know how people worked in that business.”



PHOTO COURTESY SANDRA AVILA

Her concern was that she didn’t know anyone who worked in the business. Yet, her mind was set on following her passion.

While working in Dallas, she decided to move to L.A., but needed to get a second job. She waited tables to save money and rented a room from a lady in Burbank, Calif.

“Around the year 2000,” she said with a laugh while grasping the fact that it has already been 16 years since she made the bold move.

Avila said that explaining the move to her parents was the hard part.

“My parents were concerned, but I told them, ‘You know, I have a law degree. I’m 30. Like, I’ll figure it out,’” she said. “If it doesn’t work out, I’ll just come back.”

Avila’s father agreed and both made the drive. He helped her get set up and soon after,

she signed with a temp agency.

She admitted to the agency that she really wanted to work with an entertainment company because she wanted to learn about the business and learn about the different jobs there are within the industry.

Two months later, she landed the job that would change her life.

“I land a job assisting a senior vice president of development in TV at Showtime Network,” she said. “And that’s how everything kind of got started.”

In her seven years there, Avila learned a lot while assisting the vice president of development. She assisted in the production of various shows, such as “Dexter” and “Resurrection Blvd.”

She then was promoted to coordinator. In that position, she oversaw the story de-

partment, which managed the scripts for all shows. She also ran the Latino Filmmakers Showcase for the network, which highlighted Latino filmmakers and would premier Hispanic Heritage Month on Showtime.

“I loved the culture there,” she said. “I loved the development and learned what that was. [It was] cultivating and creating shows.”

She said the network was so small, “it reminded me of school. It was like a family.”

Avila admits, though, that she should have left the network a long time ago.

“After you don’t see yourself moving, you should leave, but I was cultivating my skill sets with other contacts in different networks and studios, so you can kind of get to your next job,” she said.

Because of this, Avila was approached by Maya Entertainment, a feature film and TV distribution company that focuses on creating and acquiring content for the Latino/U.S. market.

“I got to practically meet many, [if not] all, Latino actors, writers, directors, [and] producers in Hollywood,” she said.

With Maya, Avila was able to do a film, “One Hot Summer,” for the Lifetime Network and an independent comedy, “Taco Shop,” with Tyler Posey from MTV’s “Teen Wolf” that will premiere next year.

The company, however, folded and Avila was at a crossroads. In 2012, Avila gave birth to her production company, Avila Entertainment.

Quickly after, while at a Best Buy in the Valley, she ran into the brother of a friend from high school. It turned out that her friend, Hector Salinas, was working on a script based on a true-life story of kids from a Brownsville school.

“Endgame” would become Avila’s first major production and the film premiered at Edinburg’s Carmike Theatre on Oct. 9, 2015.

Today, Avila is a board member of Edinburg’s South Texas Independent Film Festival (STIFF), pitches ideas to all the major networks and will work on a couple of films, including “Canaima,” an action adventure that is set to start production in Puerto Rico in April.

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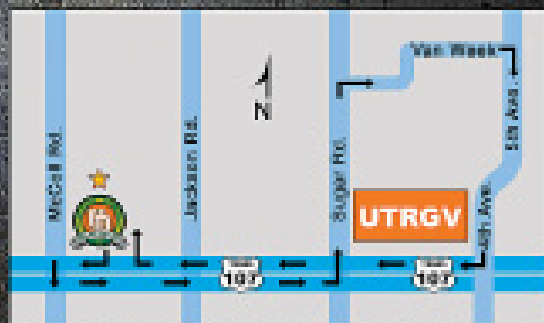
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