

# THE RIDER

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# Could Trump's wall land on UTRGV?

## U.S. already has Border Fence on Brownsville campus



The U.S. Border Fence runs along the UTRGV Main Building parking lot on the Brownsville campus.

MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER PHOTOS

**Jesus Sanchez**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

President Donald Trump has signed an executive order that calls for the construction of a wall along the southern border, and that could potentially affect UTRGV, which already has the Border Fence running through part of its campus in Brownsville.

Trump's first order, "Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements," calls for the "immediate construction of a physical wall on the southern border, monitored and supported by adequate personnel so as to prevent illegal immigration, drug and human trafficking, and acts of terrorism."

Then-President George W. Bush signed the Secure Fence Act into law in 2006. The act allowed the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to "take all actions the secretary determines necessary and appropriate to achieve and maintain operational control over the entire international land and maritime borders of the United States."

In Fall 2007, Homeland Security sent a letter to University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College President Juliet V. García, asking her to allow the agency to survey university land for 18 months for the possible

construction of the fence.

The agency also stated in its letter that it would not be responsible for any damage done during that time by its

ing to sign the letter included the following:

- A risk to property investment
- The fence would jeopardize campus security

strict Judge Andrew Hanen dismissed the border-fence lawsuit after a settlement was reached by the parties.

Part of the settlement reached with Homeland Secu-

dríguez to ask how the university would respond if something similar were to happen on its Brownsville campus because of Trump's executive order. The newspaper was referred to Patrick Gonzales, the university's assistant vice president of Marketing and Communications.

"We're not going to answer any questions that are speculative," Gonzales said. "Once the decision of the border wall is made, once we find out details of where it's going to be, I'm sure we'll be involved in those discussions. ... We don't want to answer speculations."

Trump's executive order, signed last Wednesday, defines "wall" as a "contiguous, physical wall or other similarly secure, contiguous, and impassable physical barrier."

An executive order is a directive issued by the president that directs federal agencies to, essentially, do certain things or to implement the law in a particular way, said Mark Kaswan, a UTRGV political science professor.

"Because it is a directive by the president, essentially, it's a set of instructions to federal agencies to do certain things," Kaswan said about the process to execute an order. "It is generally going to be to do certain things. You might have an ex-

See WALL, Page 10



Alice Wilson Memorial Park is located along the U.S. Border Fence in downtown Brownsville. Part of the Gateway International Bridge and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, still can be seen from the park.

activities and should it determine need for any university land, the university would be paid market value for the land, according a report published in the university's student newspaper, *The Collegian*.

García refused to sign the letter. Her reasons for refus-

--Building the fence structure would have a negative impact on the environment

The debate led to the U.S. government filing a lawsuit against the university on Feb. 8, 2008, to access the campus for surveying.

In March 2008, U.S. Dis-

trict Judge Andrew Hanen dismissed the border-fence lawsuit after a settlement was reached by the parties.

Part of the settlement reached with Homeland Secu-

trict Judge Andrew Hanen dismissed the border-fence lawsuit after a settlement was reached by the parties.



# 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

## TODAY

**Vaquero Hot Chocolate Bar**  
The **Student Union** will serve hot chocolate from noon to 2 p.m. at the Student Union Commons in Edinburg. For more information, call 665-7989.

**Night Chess**  
The **Chess Club** invites all students to learn and play chess from 4:30 to 11 p.m. in STAC 1.112A in Edinburg. For more information, email david.ortizo2@utrgv.edu.

**Tuesday**  
**Mindset for Success**  
**University College** invites students to learn how the perspectives they have can either help or hinder the outcomes they desire during a presentation from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in Student Academic Services Building 1.101 in Edinburg and Main 2.236 in Brownsville. For more information, call 665-7919 in Edinburg or 882-7483 in Brownsville or email univ@utrgv.edu.

**Mass celebration**  
The **Catholic Campus Ministry** invites students to celebrate Mass from 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. at the Chapel in Edinburg. For more information, email kassandra.zambrano01@utrgv.edu.

**Involvement Fair**  
**Student Involvement** will host an **Involvement Fair** from noon to 1 p.m. in front of the Main Building in Brownsville to encourage students to become active members of the student body. There will be free food, prizes and music. The same event will take place at the Chapel lawn in Edinburg on Thursday. For more information, email kei.larabermea@utrgv.edu.

**Wednesday**  
**Percussion concert**  
The Rio Bravo Percussion Ensemble will present a preview of its Texas Music Educators Association Convention showcase concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. Admission is free. For more information, call 882-7025 or email patron@utrgv.edu.

**Service Fair**  
The **Engagement Zone** invites students to interact with nonprofit agencies from across the Rio Grande Valley from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Student Union in Edinburg. For more information, call 607-7439 or email raul.leal01@utrgv.edu.

**Billiards Tournament**  
The **Student Union** will sponsor a **Billiards Tournament** from 3 to 5 p.m. Top finalists will win V-Bucks. For more information, email mabel.cortinamatos@utrgv.edu.

**Girls Game Night**  
**Lambda Theta Alpha Sorority Inc.** invites female students for an evening of games from 6 to 9 p.m. in Student and Academic Services Building 1.103 and Friday in Room 2.129 in Edinburg. For more information, email maria.neyra01@utrgv.edu.

**Thursday**  
**Chess tournament**  
The **Chess Club** invites beginners and casual chess players to its weekly tournament from 4:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. in Student Academic and Services Building 1.112A in Edinburg. The same event will take place at the same time Friday in Sabal Hall on the Brownsville campus. For more information, email david.ortizo2@utrgv.edu.

**Tea Party**  
**Alpha Sigma Tau** will hold a social for prospective members to learn about the sorority and consider joining. The event is from 6 to 10:15 p.m. in Student Academic and Services Building 2.129 in Edinburg. For more information, email mayte.menchaca01@utrgv.edu.

**Saturday**  
**Field Day**  
**Lambda Theta Alpha Sorority Inc.** will hold a social for prospective members from noon to 4 p.m. at the Chapel lawn in Edinburg. For more information, email maria.neyra01@utrgv.edu.

**Sunday**  
**Chinese Spring Festival**  
The **Chinese Student and Scholars Association** will hold a **Chinese Spring Festival** from 4 to 10 p.m. Sunday at the Student Union in Edinburg. For more information, email yuanqing.liao1@utrgv.edu.

**Food Sales**  
**Burgers**  
**Christians at RGV** will sell burgers from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday at Campus Outdoor Grounds in Edinburg. For more information, email anjel.morgan01@utrgv.edu.

**Hot Cheetos and Cheese**  
**Access for Sex-Education** will sell Hot Cheetos and cheese for \$1.50 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday at the Student Union in Edinburg. For more information email, cathryn.torres01@utrgv.edu.

**Hot Food**  
**Omega Delta Phi Fraternity Inc.** will sell hot food items from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at Library Courtyard B in Edinburg. For more information, email rene.cuellar01@utrgv.edu.

**IMA Fundraiser**  
The **Association of Accountants and Financial Professionals in Business at UTRGV** will sell hot dogs or hamburgers from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday at the Library BBQ Area in Edinburg. For more information, email luis.ibanezo1@utrgv.edu.

**Chili-dog combos**  
The **Japanese Animation Club** will sell chili-dog combos, nachos, Hot Cheetos with or without cheese, sodas and chips from 11:10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Health Affairs Building West Gazebo in Edinburg. For more information, email daniela.penagonzalez01@utrgv.edu.

**Pizza**  
The **Social Work Student Association** will sell pizza, hot Cheetos with cheese and drinks from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday at Library Courtyard A in Edinburg. For more information, email patrishia.trevino01@utrgv.edu.

The **Rehab Club** will sell pizza from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday on the front lawn of Math and General Classroom Building in Edinburg. For more information, email patrishia.trevino01@utrgv.edu or noelle.garcia01@utrgv.edu.

**The Health Occupations Students of America** will sell pizza from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday at the Library Courtyard A. For more information, email jose.ibarra01@utrgv.edu.

The **Chess Club** will sell pizza, snacks and drinks from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday on the Math and General Classroom Building lawn in Edinburg. For more information, email michelle.a.cavazos01@utrgv.edu or david.ortizo2@utrgv.edu.

**Fruit Sale**  
The **Bilingual Education Student Organization** will sell fruit from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday in Library Courtyard A. The organization will also sell Hot Cheetos with cheese, *chicharrones preparados*, lemonade, *elote en vaso* and other items.

**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.

**SHRM burgers**  
The **Society for Human Resource Management** will sell burgers from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday at the Library BBQ Area in Edinburg. For more information email tavana.nino01@utrgv.edu.

--Compiled by Marie Vallangca

# POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Jan. 17 and 25.

**Jan. 17**  
**10:18 a.m.:** A Financial Services staff member on the Edinburg campus reported that more than \$13,000 of unauthorized charges were made to a university's credit card for lodging via direct billing. The charges were for hotel stays in Austin during August and September 2016. The charges were reported to the bank and the credit card was canceled. The case is under investigation.

**Jan. 18**  
**1:44 p.m.:** A staff member on the Brownsville campus reported that she lost two university keys between Jan. 2 and 6. She immediately reported the lost keys to Facilities, but did not file a police report until she checked her residence, office and car.

**2:50 p.m.:** A staff member reported that a UTRGV-issued laptop computer was stolen from his vehicle while it was parked off campus. He filed a police report with the Cameron County Sheriff's Department.

**4:39 p.m.:** A staff member on the Edinburg campus reported that a

cashier was short \$100 on her money drawer on Dec. 7, 2016. Cameras are being reviewed.

**Jan. 19**  
**3:46 p.m.:** A student reported that his bike was stolen from the bike racks by the Math and General Classroom Building on the Edinburg campus. The bike was recovered unsecured at a bike rack by the Physical Sciences Building by a public safety officer. The case is under investigation.

**Jan. 20**  
**1:02 p.m.:** An officer saw a male student fall off a skateboard near the wooden bridge on the Brownsville campus. The officer observed abrasions, swelling and bruising to the student's face, knees and hands. Emergency Medical Services transported the student for a medical evaluation.

**Jan. 23**  
**7:34 a.m.:** More than three dozen obscene phrases were discovered written in chalk on the sidewalk throughout the north side of the covered walkway on the Edinburg campus. The UTRGV Physical Plant removed the writing.

**8:23 a.m.:** A student reported finding four .223 spent shell casings on the ground in parking lot E31 on the Edinburg campus. The shell casings appeared to be old and not recently fired.

**Jan. 24**  
**7:52 a.m.:** A staff member on the Brownsville campus reported she is being harassed by her estranged husband via phone.

**3:54 p.m.:** Officers responded to a fire alarm at the Science Building on the Edinburg campus. The Edinburg Fire Department cleared the building for re-entry. The alarm was activated due to a water flow issue.

**Jan. 25**  
**10:53 a.m.:** Officers responded to a report from Residence Life staff of an unwanted, suspicious male in the lobby of Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus. The former student said he was at the residence hall to pick up a pocketknife from an acquaintance. He was escorted from the area and issued a criminal trespass warning for all UTRGV residence halls.

--Compiled by Macarena Martinez



# Spotting and stopping stalking

**Lesley Robles**

THE RIDER

Last Tuesday, a group of UTRGV departments hosted a presentation on the different aspects of stalking and how to avoid these dangerous situations.

The event, held in ESTAC 1.101, was sponsored by Student Rights and Responsibilities' SuperHero Project, the University Police Department, Information Security Office and the Office for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention (OVAVP) in observance of National Stalking Awareness Month.

The Stalking Resources Center website (<http://victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center>) describes stalking as "a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear." Every year, more than 7.5 million people are stalked in the U.S. An estimated 15 percent of women and 6 percent of men have been a victim of stalking.

Stalking can produce anxiety, insomnia and other mental disorders, according to Cynthia Jones, director of the Office for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention (OVAVP) and an associate professor in philosophy. Stalking can exacerbate other situations, such as alcohol and drug abuse, and it can also escalate to homicide. Therefore, it is important for students and faculty to learn how to identify and report these issues, Jones said.

"Stalking can be many things: following you, sending you suspicious packages, trying to contact you through social media," said Officer David David Peña of the University Police Department.

Preventative measures one can take to ensure safety include walking with people you trust at night, instead of walking alone; walking in well-lit areas; and protecting personal information online, Peña said.



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Students and staff learn about stalking during a presentation last Tuesday in ESTAC 1.101 hosted by Student Rights and Responsibilities in collaboration with the UTRGV Police Department, Information Security Office and Office for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention.

The UTRGV Police Department also offers the Safe Walking Program. Students may call the department and ask for an escort to their car late at night.

Jones presented information about the intersection of stalking, dating violence and unhealthy relationships. It is common to see stalking "normalized" on the media with movies and songs that romanticize not giving up, such as the infamous song, "Every Breath You Take," by The Police. The reality is

that stalking can also lead to femicide because it's about control, for the most part, and making somebody fearful.

"If you are kind of a little bit scared of the person you are dating, first of all, come talk to us; second of all, they probably like it that way," Jones said "They probably want you to be scared and a little bit freaked out about what they might do next."

Business management sophomore Cecilia Carmouche said the stalking awareness presentation gave her

confidence.

"I have more confidence so that I can say something now that I kind of know the signals and the signs," Carmouche said.

The Office for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention is located in Learning Center Room 156 on the Edinburg campus. To make an appointment at the Brownsville campus, call 665-8287.

The University Police Department can be reached at 665-7151 in Edinburg and 882-8232 in Brownsville.

# Here's an Idea: Engrave your property

**Monika Garza**

THE RIDER

The UTRGV Police Department now offers free engraving for personal items, such as bicycles and electronics.

Early care and early childhood studies senior Julia Gonzalez said she thinks Operation ID is a great and efficient program for the UTRGV community, especially for students.

"I think [Operation ID] is pretty neat because a lot of the students' property does get lost, and more than likely because they leave it on the table and probably walk away to get maybe, like, a snack or something, so anything can happen within those few seconds or few minutes," Gonzalez said. "So, I



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER PHOTOS

UTRGV Police Officer Michael Garcia engraves a student's identification information on the back of a cell phone last Wednesday at the UTRGV Police Department in Brownsville. The department is located at 1 W. University Blvd., across from the Casa Bella student housing complex.

think it is pretty neat that this project is going on."

Operation ID is a free program in which the UTRGV Police Department engraves specific identification numbers on the back of an item. This helps police officers recognize and return missing or stolen items to the original owner.

Operation ID is for all of the campus community, not just bicycle riders, said UTRGV Police Chief Raul Munguia. He said items can be engraved with identifying marks or numbers.

He recommends engraving driver's license numbers on one's property.

"So, say we stop somebody and they have a TV in the car. ... We can easily

run that [number] ... and that we can look in our database if it is reported stolen and/or give them a phone call," Munguia said.

Students, faculty and staff only need to present one official ID to engrave an item.

The process of engraving an item only takes a few minutes, according to Munguia.

Once the police find a lost item, they will report it to the original owner, who can pick it up at the police station, he said.

"If they lose an item, they need to make a report to the police department and if we locate the property, we will call them and tell them that we have it

and all you need to do is show an ID during normal working hours between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., and they can get their property back," Munguia said.

Asked if she would engrave any of her personal items now that she knows what Operation ID is about, Gonzalez replied: "I am actually thinking about it. Yes, because I am always on campus and I always carry my electronics with me, like my laptop, my phone and sometimes my tablet. So, I am actually considering it now that I know about it."

Jennifer McGehee-Valdez, director of public relations for University Marketing and Communications, said Operation ID is a great tool for students, faculty and staff.

"I think it is great. I think, first of all, we have to make sure we keep our eyes on everything at all times ... just for safety reasons," McGehee-Valdez said. "But, just in case you are in a rush and you leave something behind, it is nice to know that [Operation ID] is an option. It is just another way to ensure that if you leave something behind, you can get it back."





# Vaquero Voice

## UTRGV Classes



*“Puedo decir que el semestre pasado mis maestros no fueron muy buenos porque no eran de aquí y eso me afectó mucho y me costó mucho trabajo entenderles ya que su acento era muy diferente. Ya que les tenías que poner muchísima atención e irles a preguntar cosas que no le entendiste como lo dijeron. Y en esta ocasión a mí en lo particular si me preocupé un poquito más por que antes no le ponía mucha atención en cuestión a los maestros y las clases que estoy tomando ahorita, yo creo que me tocaron profesores con un acento que puedo entender mejor”.*

**Gerson Cisneros**  
Estudiante de tercer año en ciencias biomédicas

“I kind of feel that when it comes to registration, if you’re not on the Dean’s List or a senior, it’s unfair to everyone else. Before I was on Dean’s List, I was just a regular freshman. I always felt like I got the bad end of the stick because I had to waitlist four different classes that I needed. I would have to choose a different class that I didn’t need or an elective course, which I didn’t want to do.”



**Valerie Campos**  
Social work sophomore



“Classes, for me, are getting harder. I mean, of course, I’m already gonna finish, but overall how some of the courses have changed, they have gotten a lot better. It’s easier to understand what to expect. Being almost done, it’s harder to register because it’s less classes available to you now that most of them you should already be done with.”

**Kevin Maldonado**  
History senior

“Well, based on my experience registering for courses, I think that it can be the college version of ‘The Hunger Games.’ We all want to get into a certain class and, now with the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses, it’s very competitive because we have much more options available for Edinburg than what we have in Brownsville. I am an international student, I live in Matamoros and, for me, it’s very convenient and important to be able to attend class here at the Brownsville campus. Fortunately, I have been able to register for them here in Brownsville. I haven’t had the need to go to Edinburg to take any courses, yet, but I would suggest that more courses be available here. This semester, I have a pretty manageable schedule. It is the first semester that I don’t have 8 o’clock classes, which is great! They have been great and I was happy to see that there have been more rehabilitative courses offered here in Brownsville as well. I am also taking two online classes and that’s been a new experience because in the past I’ve just taken one, so taking two is kind of a change because I have to juggle more things by myself. But it has been great!”



**Romina Duarte**  
Psychology junior

--Compiled by Ana Cahuiche and Gabriel Mata



# Surpass your limits



**Lesley Robles**  
THE RIDER

When I started college, I did not think I would end up doing what I am doing now. I was a shy, quiet kid. Talking to strangers didn’t come easily. Class presentations were even worse. I commute every day, like most students at this university do, and I have joined several student organizations that caught my interest. It was the student organizations and my campus job that gave me that initial push to explore outside my inner circle.

Initially, I was scared to open up and do things. I think my transformation began during my sophomore year, when I got the courage to start an organization on campus with the support of my friends and family. I founded the first university Operation Smile Club in Texas, which serves to bring awareness of and raise money to treat facial deformities, such as cleft lips and palates. The money we collect goes to Operation Smile, an international charity that conducts annual medical missions.

Club members serve the community, participate in service projects such as Smile Dolls and have opportunities to attend leadership conferences and medical missions. All majors are welcome; all it takes is a caring heart to help someone in need.

The process of starting and running an organization was difficult. I struggled so much during general meetings when I had to give presentations. Although I knew the information to present, I would get anxious and nervous. I felt as if I was doing a disservice to the organization by being scared to speak in public. So, I sought help to improve my public speaking at the Hauser Lab on campus to assess my presentation skills. I felt more at ease and confident after doing some practice rounds and ensuring that I knew what I had to say. I learned that the fear I have of public

speaking is common. Your fears may be different from mine, but we all have something that we are afraid of doing. It’s learning to deal with that fear that allows us to expand our knowledge and surpass our expectations.

Although the road was tough, I’m glad I started the Operation Smile Club because we have planted a seed in the Rio Grande Valley community to care about children and adults with facial deformities. We have raised more than \$2,000 to cover the cost of surgeries and medical equipment used in Operation Smile’s annual medical missions. It feels extremely rewarding to know that we have helped six children receive the surgeries that they need during our first semester with the club.

Even though I was doubtful in the beginning, I ended up juggling Greek life, an on-campus job and my classes. I became the co-founder and president of the organization I had dreamed of joining since high school. It was not easy, but it was all worth it. When you stay in your comfort zone, it is like a safety

“ It’s learning to deal with that fear that allows us to expand our knowledge and surpass our expectations. ”

net. There is warmth and comfort from staying inside as well as a sense of routine and short-term fulfillment, but when you decide to reach beyond your comfort zone you learn to embrace change, try new things, meet new people, aim higher and feel motivated to reach your goals.

The more you try to do things out of the ordinary, the things that scare you, the easier they will become the next time around. There is opportunity for growth in all areas. What is hard for you now will become easier in time with practice. Don’t just do the bare minimum. As my political science professor, Jerry Polinard, used to say at the end of every class, “Go off and do good things.”

Use what you learn in school, home, work, organizations and your life experiences to live to your fullest potential. Breaking free from your shell starts with believing in yourself and realizing that you can make the difference.



# A day in the life of Amy Frazier

Nubia Reyna  
THE RIDER

English Lecturer Amy Frazier spent most of her childhood living in Europe and Japan because her dad was in the U.S. Army.

She graduated from Hanna High School in 1978 and started college at Pan American University at Brownsville.

“My dad retired from the Army when I had just graduated from high school,” Frazier said.

Luciano V. Sierra retired from the Army after 30 years of service and started college with Frazier.

“We took English, history and science classes together,” she said. “He was a troublemaker. He would like to ask the professors challenging questions.”

Frazier said that in the English courses that she and her father took together, they would have the same writing assignments and what would take her five pages to write, he could write it in one page and get the same grade.

“He was a good writer,” she said of her father, who died on Dec. 5.

Frazier decided to go for a year to the University of Texas at Austin and then returned to graduate from PAUB.

“I started teaching at Porter High School for four years, then I moved up to Dallas and taught three years in a high school,” she said.

After that, Frazier came back to Brownsville to get her master’s in English at what was then the University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College.

“That was back at a time when you could get your master’s and work here at the same time,” she said. “This is my



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

English Lecturer Amy Frazier is shown in her office on the Brownsville campus.

23rd year teaching here.”

Getting to know what their professors do outside of class may help students better understand them.

Besides being a lecturer, Frazier serves on the board of the Brownsville Beautification Committee.

“We try to beautify our city with trees and plants,” she said. “And there’s areas downtown where we try to beautify with landscaping. That’s one of the projects.”

She is also a delegate of Voting

Precinct 12 in Brownsville and recently was sworn in as chair.

“We vote as a delegate when it comes time for people to run for office,” Frazier said. “We represent our precinct of the people that vote for local leaders, state leaders and national leaders.”

Frazier’s days are filled with work, volunteering and healthy living.

**6 a.m.:** Frazier wakes up and does “oil pulling” and has a bowl of kefir milk with flaxseed and organic Stevia for breakfast.

“It’s a natural way to detoxify your body,” Frazier said. “My daughter says I’m weird, but I’m very health conscious.”

**7:30 a.m.:** She arrives at the UTRGV Brownsville campus and gets ready for her 8 a.m. class.

“I teach from 8 to 1:30, back-to-back classes,” Frazier said.

**1:30 to 3:30 p.m.:** She has office hours Monday and Wednesday.

“If students need to come talk to me, if they need some help with their essays--it’s not just to help them with work,” Frazier said. “I’m available to help them in other areas. ... If I can help, I’ll go over there.” She has helped students get enrolled and to get advised when they are having a hard time doing so.

“I didn’t realize for a long time that, sometimes, the students don’t have anybody to turn to,” she said.

**3:30 p.m.:** “Teaching four classes back-to-back, I haven’t had time to eat, so I’ll go eat,” Frazier said. “I have too many favorite places. I love sushi, so I love to go to Kumori and eat there.”

She also likes to go to Cheddars because she likes the spinach dip.

**5:30 p.m.:** Last Thursday, Frazier served as a volunteer for the “Everyone Counts” survey of those who are homeless. She helped distribute bags containing water, socks, underwear, among other items, to the homeless.

“The more surveys we fill out from the homeless, the more funds we get from the federal, local and state levels,” Frazier said. “We do this so we can help the homeless with shelter, food and jobs.”

**7 p.m.:** “One day I jog, the next day I lift weights,” Frazier said. “I’ve jogged for more than 30 years.”

See **FRAZIER**, Page 10

## What should I major in?

*Throughout this academic year, The Rider will explore the programs of study at UTRGV. This is the sixth in a series. The Rider interviewed Jerald Hughes, Information Systems Department chair, for information.*

**Major:** Information Systems

**School:** Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship

**Chair of the Department:** Jerald Hughes

**Total credit hours needed to graduate:** 120

**What is information systems?**

“Information systems is about the application of computers to organization problems. We’re in the college of business, so most of the organizations our students go to are business ones, but we also supply students to government associations. We’ve had some people go off to the law enforcement divisions, the Government Accounting Office, things like that. So, organizations generally, either profit or non profit, which have things that they need to do like keep track of their employees, equipment, what products should they offer next year, and they need computers do to all these things. So, these are to get those computers up and running and supporting the organization’s goals. Make sure your strategy as an organization is supported by the particular computers you’re using. For example, one thing that might come is that a lot of businesses are looking at getting set up on the cloud. There is a field that is very hot right now that is called business intelligence, which is how to analyze all this data. Businesses have so much data that they’re collecting and they actually don’t know what they need to do or what decision tips are hidden inside that data, so our business intelligence electives help students figure out how to use all the tools that will analyze that data and get the business those answers.”

**Which classes can students expect to take?** “So, all the students in the [bachelor’s in business administration] will take a management information systems course 3390. They will learn how to judge how they should decide what their cloud strategy would be. If you’re in the information systems

major, then you’ll have a bit more about that. You’ll be able to take a course in systems analysis, which is from the ground up how to collect business requirements and make sure you get the computers and software you need to support those requirements. We have a project management course as our capstone, so a business’ project might be implementing something in the cloud, for example. Then, we have elective tracks that support some of the high value specialties that information system jobs are offering right now. One of those is in security, so we have network security, we have information assurance. Our required courses include one programming course, one networking course, one database course, one systems analysis course, one project management course and we have one at the beginning, which is project and team oriented, called business information infrastructure, which introduces projects and all kinds of things that businesses use. So they have virtual systems, they’ll build those from scratch, web pages from scratch, a network project, something for the cloud. All the things that are sort of going on with what you would see running in a business, they get a project for it in that introductory course. Those are the six required, and then like I said, we have elective tracks. Security is one, we have a web design, an e-commerce strategy course that’s very popular.”

**What skills will students learn by the time they graduate?** “There are basic required skills. There are six courses that all the students will learn. The other thing I wanted to say about what the major consists of is it’s distinguished from computer science and we still need to get that message out to the high schools, because the counselors there, when students say they’re interested in computers, of course, computer science is the first thing they think about, whereas students in computer science would

take multiple courses in, for example, programming. They’ll take assembly language programming and data structures and algorithm construction and so on. Our students are placed between the two skills of understanding computers and understanding how businesses are run, and especially how to communicate with the people in the business that need those systems. So the reason I say that is probably the central course inside the discipline is systems analysis, because businesses need workers who understand both how business is run and how you can run computers. We have a course in enterprise software, which is a very high-value skill. These are the huge systems that companies like General Motors and the U.S government and so on build to tie all the pieces of their organization together. That’s called [enterprise resource planning] software and we have two electives in that as well.”

**What are some possible careers?** “Virtually any organization that has IT, which is virtually all of them now, will have a spot where one of our majors might go. If a student wanted to create the next great programming language, they probably should think about computer science and then they would go and work for a tech company like Google or IBM or one of those.”

**Who are some possible employers?** “Our students have gone off to work for IT companies. One of our good hires recently was by the Dell Secure Works Division. They took our information security courses and they went there, which is a technology corporation, but we also have some working for the world headquarters of Wal-Mart. Tyson Foods is an international food company with hundreds of thousands of people, and they’ve worked with them. They offer one of our flagship internships. It’s a very well-run system of bringing people into the company. We also help students find jobs locally. One

of our tracks is in health information systems, so if a student took a business intelligence course, a web course and, of course, the health information systems course, local clinics and hospitals hire our students down here; school districts and banks as well.”

**What salary can a student expect to earn after graduation?** “The hottest areas are the ERP and IT. I know that a local hire was by Mission Hospital paid \$65,000 to one of our graduates, so students go to them now for internships and entry-level jobs. We’ve also had people going into the banks. There’s a range depending on how that works. Some of these IT departments will start a new hire on the help desk and those will probably come in at about [\$40,000 or \$50,000]. Once you’re a server specialist or a program development specialist, you go up to the 60s and 70s range. One of our good hires was in Houston. There is a differential between what you’ll get in Houston, San Antonio, Dallas and the Valley. We had an oil company in Houston hire one of our students into their IT division and it was \$70,000 to start with a \$10,000 bonus. Of course, the school districts don’t pay that much because they don’t have that much money, but I think they’re in the 40s.”

**Are there any student clubs?** “Yes, our student chapter for the IS major is called the Association of Information Technology Professionals. We go to the region conference every fall and the national conference every spring. They have lots of good sessions for students, like ways to meet employers. The main thing they do is compete against each other in various categories. We send off competitors who have won trophies multiple times, including a first place nationally for the security competition a while back.”

**For more information:** contact Hughes at j.hughes@utrgv.edu or call 665-3388.

--Compiled by Sarah Carvajal

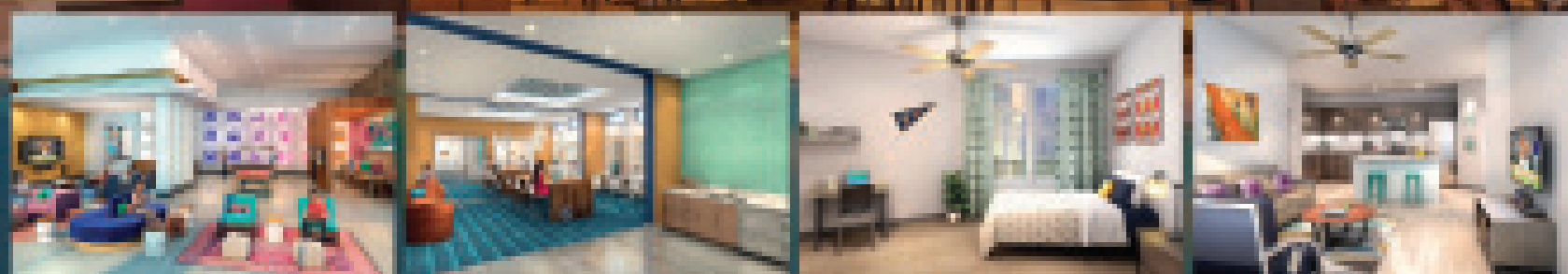
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# Celebrating the Year of the Rooster



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Biomedical sciences sophomores Anahi Sánchez (left) and Cyana Arredondo share a look of excitement as they finish folding origami crafts last Wednesday during the Chinese New Year celebration held at the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus. The event featured a trivia contest, free food and Chinese-themed activities.



Biomedical sciences senior Samantha Rocha receives a plate of Chinese food provided at the event.

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# Tenemos tamales



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Aldo Bañuelos, International Student Organization historian, holds up a sign promoting the organization's tamale plate sale while riding his bike last Wednesday on the Brownsville campus. ISO will conduct fundraisers each week in order to raise money for their end-of-semester trip.



Sisters Marianne (left) and Stephanie Cevallos, both members of the International Student Organization, help prepare tamale plates for students last Wednesday on the Brownsville campus. The plates were sold for \$5 in order to raise funds for the organization's end-of-semester trip.

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# Mariachi Aztlán: orgullo nacional

**Rebeca Ortiz**  
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

El galardonado Mariachi Aztlán de UTRGV iniciará sus primeras presentaciones del año el jueves en el Centro de Artes de Texas Southmost College a las 7:30 p.m. donde serán acompañados por el también reconocido Ballet Folklórico de UTRGV.

El mariachi, fundado en 1989 por la vicepresidenta adjunta de la Oficina de Arte Público y pianista, Dahlia Guerra, es dirigido musicalmente por su persona y por el profesor de música, Francisco Loera.

Guerra, quien llegó a acompañar con su piano a la compañía de Ballet Folklórico, dijo haber pensado en tener un ensamble musical, el cual sería un mariachi.

“Han pasado muchos años en desarrollo, muchas maravillosas oportunidades para nuestros estudiantes”, dijo ella. “Se han presentado por todo Estados Unidos, México y Canadá, pero al mismo tiempo continuando su educación”.

El Mariachi Aztlán tiene más de 130 estudiantes con títulos universitarios entre licenciaturas y maestrías en diversas áreas como música, administración de empresas, ingeniería, educación, entre otras; mismas que completaron mientras participaban en el programa de mariachi.

Su nombre, Aztlán, representa la mítica tierra del mariachi, México.

“Para mi representa la cuna de la vida, la fuente de la cultura y tradición”, dijo Guerra.

Actualmente, el programa tiene dos mariachis completos, Juvenil Aztlán y Aztlán, los cuales manejan distintos niveles de disponibilidad por parte de sus integrantes. Aztlán hace los viajes más largos por el país y sirve de acompañante a otros grupos de mariachis y a artistas de talla internacional. Estudiantes de todas las clasificaciones son bienvenidos en ambos.

En su instrumentación predominan los instrumentos de cuerdas, tales como los violines, las trompetas, el arpa, el guitarrón, la vihuela, la guitarra y todos deben cantar.

De acuerdo a sus directores, Guerra y Loera, para poder entrar a cualquiera



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Jeniffer García (de izquierda), Yarettzy Escobar, Brandon Rodríguez y Giselle Sánchez durante uno de los ensayos de Juvenil Aztlán.

de los grupos se necesita mucho amor a la música mexicana, mucha dedicación, práctica y disciplina.

“Tener profesionalismo y tener la capacidad de tocar”, dijo Loera.

Sobre el grado de español que manejan, Loera dijo tener de todo, estudiantes de primera, tercera y hasta quinta generación, por lo que entre todos tratan de aprender. Por su parte, Guerra dijo que lo hermoso de la música es que “la música es universal, y no conoce un sólo lenguaje”.

Sobre el mariachi como representación nacional y musical de México, Guerra dijo que siendo nuestro campus la segunda universidad hispana más grande de la nación, sienten que su música representa a los estudiantes del Valle, a la música y la cultura de México que

muchos estudiantes poseen, pero a su vez representa el Valle del Rio Grande.

Al preguntar a Loera si pensaba que el mariachi podría ser desplazado en el futuro por otros géneros musicales, dijo que lo popular es muy diferente al mariachi, pues el mariachi “es música de nuestros padres, nuestros abuelos”.

“El mariachi es el mariachi, y como artista el mariachi es diferente a un cantante. ... El mariachi popularmente no es muy conocido, pero es música ... que representa a México”, dijo Loera.

El mariachi como herramienta educativa a nivel preparatoria es muy popular en el sur de Texas, dado que sus programas de mariachi son conocidos en toda la nación.

“A veces las personas que vienen de México nos dicen que están sorprendidas por el nivel avanzado

de mariachi que tenemos en el sur de Texas. Es algo único”, dijo Guerra quien también mencionó que en ciertas áreas del país existen espacios de cultura del mariachi, tales como Tucson, Los Ángeles, Las Vegas, Chicago y San Antonio.

Entre sus presentaciones más memorables se encuentra la presentación que tuvieron en la Casa Blanca bajo la administración del Presidente Barack Obama, conmemorando la renovación de su iniciativa en la Excelencia Educativa de los Hispanos, la cual tuvo lugar en octubre del 2011.

“Fue una maravillosa oportunidad para nuestros estudiantes”, dijo Guerra. “Muchos de ellos, cuando entran al programa, nunca han salido del Valle. Muchos de ellos nunca habían estado en un avión, así que te podrás imaginar ir a la capital de nuestra nación. ... Estábamos muy felices y orgullosos de representar al Valle en la Casa Blanca”.

Fueron invitados por la Gran Ópera de Houston a participar en la primera “Ópera Mariachi” del mundo, Cruzar la cara de la Luna, en el 2010.

Participaron en la Ópera Mariachi más reciente, El Pasado Nunca Se Termina, producida por la Ópera Lírica de Chicago en el 2015.

El Mariachi Aztlán realizó su primer material discográfico titulado, “Mi Nombre es México”, el cual conmemoró el 25º aniversario del programa de mariachi de UTPA/UTRGV cuenta con arreglos musicales de sus propios integrantes, y fue producido por José Hernández del Mariachi Sol de México.

Clyde Guerra, un estudiante de segundo año en interpretación musical y biología, dijo que esta experiencia “te ayuda a crecer como artista, como músico y como maestro para aprender a enseñarle a todos lo que te enseñaron a ti”.

El Mariachi Aztlán ha acompañado a artistas nacionales e internacionales como Aída Cuevas, Paquita la del Barrio, Ramón Ayala y Vicky Carr, entre otros. Ha tocado también con renombrados grupos de mariachis, como el Mariachi Vargas.

A los jóvenes de preparatoria interesados en entrar al Mariachi Aztlán, Guerra y Loera les recomiendan que se preparen, y que escuchen mucha música de mariachi, pues es una de las maneras en las que se aprende el estilo.

“Escuchando empiezas a imitar el estilo y eso es muy importante para inspirarse”, dijo Loera.



Luis Villarreal y Jorge Zamora, integrantes de Juvenil Aztlán, ensayan con sus instrumentos.



# Spring is for team

## With a complete roster, men’s tennis ready to roll



PHOTO COURTESY DANIEL ELIZONDO

Koby Jansen hits a backhand at practice last week at the Orville I. Cox Center in Edinburg. Jansen is one of the two juniors on the team.

**Nathaniel Mata**  
SPORTS EDITOR

A college tennis roster is in the single digits, but without a full team of seven, issues can arise. Now, Head Coach Dann Nelson can finally start to build around a full roster.

In the fall season he had a small squad, not even enough to take part in team competition. Luckily, the fall season is known as the individual portion of the season. In the fall, four returners from the 2015-16 season did get in some valuable experience during the small sample size of matches.

“The fall is for them, individually, but the spring is for team,” Nelson said. “So, this is the meat of our schedule, this is the championship segment of what we do as a team.”

The coach was on the recruiting trail to fill his roster and is happy with the additions, who will be able to compete.

“We’re such a small team,” he said. “Now we have seven. The new guys have acclimated very well. We’re just a small family. We found new guys to add to our family.”

The three newcomers are Clément Sarradin, Mateo Schmit and Rodrigo

Del Pozo.

“It’s a huge adjustment to come over at the semester, which means midyear,” Nelson said. “They’re in a different culture. It’s a big ask and, so far, they’re really adjusting to it well.”

Sarradin, a native of Clarensac, France, has made an early splash as part of the team. He was the team’s sole victor on a Jan. 21 trip to No. 14-ranked Oklahoma State University. He had a singles win over OSU’s Mathieu Scaliga, 0-6, 7-5, 1-0 (12-10).

The win was the first of his collegiate career, and a confidence boost to the newcomer to both college and American tennis.

“It was just my second match with the team,” Sarradin said. “We played against a very strong team. It was not just a victory me, I wanted to win a point for the team. It was important for me to start correct this season.”

Sarradin, a freshman, is part of a group of five underclassmen. They outnumber the upperclassmen. In fact, UTRGV has no seniors on the team this season, only two juniors. Elliot Johnstone and Koby Jansen are the elder statesmen on the tennis team, and still have two seasons remaining.

Jansen is in his third year with the program, so he’s no stranger to the routine.

“We’re playing tough teams right now, so we’re trying to prepare ourselves for conference when we get there. It’s just a progression and it’s good to get back on the road and traveling,” Jansen said.

Of his younger teammates, who are new to the process, the Australian native said: “It’s always hard when you first get here, especially for the guys that got here in January. It’s always hard to get in from another country, and then within a week, you’re playing consecutive matches in a weekend, and back-to-back days.”

UTRGV will try to build on the young team as the season progresses. Their packed schedule takes them across Texas nearly every weekend. In March, they will start to travel out of state, including trips to South Carolina and Georgia, all in preparation for the WAC season in Arizona, Washington and New Mexico.

They will be at home Wednesday when they host Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi at 2 p.m. in the Orville I. Cox Tennis Center.



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER

**Name:** Rodrigo Del Pozo  
**Sport:** Tennis  
**Classification:** Sophomore  
**Major:** Psychology  
**Age:** 20  
**Hometown:** Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico

**Who is your favorite athlete?** “Tony Romo, because he’s always been underrated and I think he’s a pretty good player. He’s always working hard and I look up to him because even though he’s not considered the best player, he’s always trying to get better. I feel that if I do the same thing, try to get better, I’ll be a better player.”

**Who is your role model?** “My dad, because he’s always doing everything extra. He does things he shouldn’t even do and it just motivates me to be a better person.”

**What was the best advice you’ve been given and by whom?** “I think by my dad. He said to never look down even if you’re defeated. Just keep moving forward and just work hard.”

**What’s your favorite place to hang out on campus?** “Probably, the library because I just go hang out with my friends there and study a little.”

**What are your academic goals?** “I want to graduate and get a good job and maybe go on to get my master’s.”  
**How do you feel about being part of this team?** “I feel good. I feel like I can bring some good weapons to the team and, hopefully, it does what I want to.”

**What are your personal goals for this season?** “For me, try to win as many matches as possible and try to help my team out. Try to help them win conference.”

--Compiled by Sarah Carvajal

WEDNESDAY

FEB. 1

1 P.M.

**WOMEN’S TENNIS**

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY - CORPUS CHRISTI

ORVILLE I. COX TENNIS CENTER

WEDNESDAY

FEB. 1

TBA

**MEN’S TENNIS**

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY - CORPUS CHRISTI

ORVILLE I. COX TENNIS CENTER

SATURDAY

FEB. 4

7 P.M.

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY

SPECTRUM SPORTS ALT.

HOME GAMES

MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

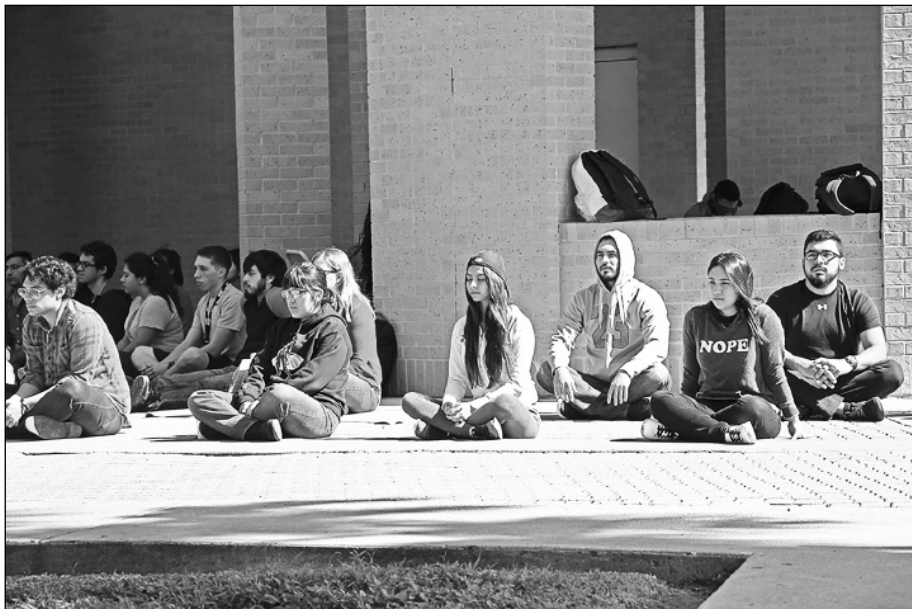




MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Alicia Salazar, a business freshman, spins a prize wheel during a tabling to commemorate the 44th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* last Wednesday on the Brownsville campus. Also shown is UTRGV Texas Rising Campus Organizer Ofelia Alonso. Planned Parenthood Texas Votes and United for Reproductive and Gender Equity representatives were also present to spread awareness on campus.

# Time to meditate



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Students gather last Thursday outside the library in Edinburg for the UTRGV Flash Mob Meditation Group to meditate with no distractions from phones or technology.

## WALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ecutive order telling a federal agency not to do certain things. For example, President Obama’s [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals] ... instructed immigration agents not to deport certain classes of immigrants. So, in that sense, it could include telling federal employees not to do certain things. But, generally it’s essentially instructing members of the executive branch what they should do and it carries the force of law within the executive branch.”

Kaswan said Congress has no authority over executive orders. It can try to undermine an executive order by passing a law, but it could become problematic.

“In order for the law to be enacted, the president has to sign it and so, the president is unlikely to sign a law that undoes an executive order since [he is] the one who issued the executive order,” he said. “The only time when they might do that is that Congress has tricky ways of embedding certain things into legislation that the president pretty much has to sign. For that reason, the president might sign a law, but, in general, Congress finds it very difficult to undermine an executive order.”

Asked who can stop a president’s executive order, Kaswan replied that courts can.

“The courts can invalidate an executive order if it finds that the order violates the law or if it violates the Constitution; that can be done by a judge at any level in the federal system, so a district court judge, which is the lowest level, can invalidate an executive

order,” he said. “It doesn’t have to go to the Supreme Court. Oftentimes, it will go to the Supreme Court, but it can be done by a judge at a lower level. In fact, we had an example of that a couple of years ago ... when a federal judge here in Brownsville ruled that one of President Obama’s immigration-related executive orders, one that was called [Deferred Action for Parents of Americans], was unconstitutional.”

Last Thursday, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto canceled his meeting with Trump, which was scheduled for Tuesday, over disagreements about who would pay for construction of the proposed wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

“This morning we have informed the White House that I will not attend the meeting scheduled for next Tuesday with the @POTUS,” Peña Nieto tweeted in Spanish.

Trump addressed the canceled meeting with Peña Nieto during the Congressional GOP Retreat in Philadelphia later that day.

“Unless Mexico is going to treat the United States fairly, with respect, such a meeting would be fruitless, and I want to go a different route. We have no choice,” Trump said during the retreat.

U.S. Rep. Filemon Vela (D-Texas) told *The Rider* on Friday his views about Trump’s wall have not changed since the letter he sent to him last summer.

“We’re building [a wall] on the border with a country that’s an ally, not an enemy; it’s just absurd,” Vela said. “It just makes things worse and worse. What’s really astonishing to me is that you have on one hand Vladimir Putin, who’s stealing American secrets.

[Trump has] this supposedly cordial relationship with [him]. On the other hand, when he’s dealing with a country that is our third largest trading partner, he’s taking this antagonistic approach. It’s really baffling.”

In his letter, Vela calls Trump a racist and writes: “you can take your border wall and shove it up your ass.”

Asked what he and the rest of Congress are going to do regarding Trump’s executive order, Vela replied: “Right now, we haven’t even organized our congressional committees. We have our first organizational meetings [this] week and, in Homeland Security, I suspect that Republicans will bring up a border security bill sometime in the next month or so and, you know, the devil is going to be in the details. There will likely be provisions to support Trump’s wall and we’re just going to have to fight it tooth and nail and hope that we can defeat it in the House. It’s kind of hard to say because they haven’t given us a proposed bill.”

Nursing freshman Linda Soto said building the wall is a waste of money.

“It’s not going to cost [Trump], of course. ... It’s going to cost, mostly, the middle class and to be honest, they’re the ones that voted for him because they’re the ones that wanted change,” Soto said. “They wanted change and, apparently, it’s going to cost their pockets for the change. ... There’s already a wall. What, is he ‘reinforcing’ it? People are going to find a way over it, under it, whichever way they can. To be honest, it’s just a waste of money and it’s not going to be a pretty view.”

Kaswan said the diplomatic dispute between Trump and Peña Nieto is “horrible” for the U.S.-Mexico relationship.

“It’s very destructive,” he said. “As you know, Trump started that by telling Peña Nieto that he shouldn’t bother to come if he’s not willing to pay for the wall. So, Trump, it seems like, has little regard or respect for international norms of the way that countries should relate to one another and to treat our southern neighbor in that way, a country with which we do huge volumes of trade, whose economy, I mean, the well-being of the Mexican economy is very important for the well-being of the U.S. economy. ... Mexico is one of the biggest trading partners with the United States. We don’t just import from Mexico; we export to Mexico.”

Kaswan said Mexico is an important partner for the country.

“As Trump seems to be aware of, they’re an important partner in terms of national security as well. To start off a relationship on such a bad foot really seems to be moving in a troubling direction that augurs quite poorly for the future of U.S.-Mexico relations under President Trump. I mean, maybe he thinks that if he starts really, really badly that it’ll be good because then things can only get better and everybody will be so much more relieved when things get better, but that does not seem like a good strategy.”

Soto said she does not agree with Trump’s strategy.

“What he is doing is mostly going to affect DREAMers from here, you know, the college students who want a better life,” she said. “I think there’s better options. There should be an opportunity for the students who are here to be able to stay. There’s better possibilities for them here.”

--Monika Garza contributed to this report.

## FRAZIER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

She enjoys lifting weights at Gold’s Gym.

“They have a great weightlifting class. ... I use the big bars; by the time you’re through, you do over a thousand squats,” Frazier said.

**8 p.m.:** After the workout, Frazier goes home and cooks a meal.

“I usually cook organic vegetables with a little meat,” she said. “Nowadays, they have organic hamburger meat, organic bacon and organic chicken.”

**9 p.m.:** “I watch British shows

because I studied British literature,” Frazier said. “They are such great actors; some of them I didn’t even know they are British.”

Her favorite show is “Doc Martin.”

**10 p.m.:** “It’s time for me to start getting ready to go to bed,” Frazier said. “I have to wake up at 5:50 a.m.”

Her favorite hobby is traveling to other countries.

“I like to observe the people from other countries and learn their customs, listen to their languages, eat their food, listen to their music,” Frazier said. “I’m very fascinated and intrigued by their customs and traditions.”

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# Art for everyone

**Nubia Reyna**

THE RIDER

For the third consecutive semester, UTRGV's department of Fine Arts will offer the Rio Grande Valley community a series of concerts and art exhibits on the Brownsville and Edinburg campuses.

Last Tuesday, the Gallery at Rusteberg Hall in Brownsville hosted the art exhibit, "Messenger," by University of Texas Pan American graduate Travis Trapp. The show continues through Feb. 17.

"I look at art every day," Trapp said. "I get my inspiration from everything."

The show consists of more than 20 pieces of colorful and abstract designs.

"I take something through multiple processes and see what happens without knowing how will that turn out," he said. "I'm just trying to create

Macias said that people looking for a bit more artistic culture should attend these shows.

"There is a lot going on," Macias said. "Not only just for the general population but for the students who want to develop their skills or see what other people are doing. It's crucial for their development."

The next opening reception in the Visual Arts Gallery at the Edinburg campus will be held Wednesday and will feature the work of Associate Professor Donald Lyles. On Feb. 21, a faculty group show will open at the gallery in Brownsville.

UTRGV's Patron of the Arts program will offer a variety of musical performances, such as mariachi, piano, ensembles and cello throughout the semester.

"The calendar for the whole Patron series is full of interesting people,"



NUBIA REYNA/THE RIDER

UTRGV Art Lecturers Alejandro Macias and Noel Palmenez look at a piece last Tuesday during the opening reception for "Messenger," an exhibit by University of Texas Pan American graduate Travis Trapp.

work."

Another exhibit opened in the Visual Arts Gallery on the Edinburg campus last Thursday.

The gallery kicked off the semester with "In Memory of Artist Diana Womble."

Womble was a student in the process of obtaining her master's degree in Fine Arts in UTRGV, according to UTRGV.edu. Womble died on Dec. 14.

Gallery Coordinator Alejandro

said Katherine Decker, a cellist and assistant professor at UTRGV.

Decker has been playing the cello since she was 3. Her mother, a music teacher, introduced her to the world of music.

"All of the music is really about life, hate and despair," Decker said. "I really identify a lot with that. I think a lot of people do."

She will perform at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Texas Southmost



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Music Lecturer Tido Janssen performs Antonio Vivaldi's Sonata No. 5 in E Minor during a faculty recital Jan. 18 in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

College Arts Center in Brownsville. The concert will consist of three "really beautiful" pieces: "Vocalise," Op. 34, No. 14, by Sergei Rachamaninoff; Sonata for Cello and Piano in C Major, Op. 119, by Serge Prokofiev; and Sonata for Cello and Piano in D Minor, Op. 40, by Dmitri Shostakovich.

"Students shouldn't be bored by classical music and cello," Decker said. "It's so much more than that and so are the rest of the events. Music speaks to us all."

Last Thursday, Donald Pinson, a Del Mar College assistant professor of trombone and low brass, performed a trombone concert in the Texas

Southmost College Arts Center.

"It's always fun to visit other places," Pinson said by telephone Jan. 23 from Corpus Christi.

Pinson grew up in San Antonio, where in the fourth grade he learned to play the piano.

"Neither of my parents are musicians, but, they played music since the youngest age I can remember," he said. "There's a lot of fun music."

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By Clarissa Martinez





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