

THE RIDER

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Assessing Trump's ban

UTRGV's Global Engagement offers students assistance

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Some members of the UTRGV Muslim Students' Association worry about their future after President Donald Trump signed an executive order that temporarily suspends entry to the United States for 90 days of citizens from seven predominantly Muslim countries. "I feel like it's an unnecessary ban," said Sidra Rafaqut, a biology sophomore and MSA member. "I don't say that, like, just biased because I don't support his other executive orders. I feel like his approach in executing [these orders] ... is very problematic and not well thought out."

Rafaqut was born in Pakistan and moved to the Rio Grande Valley when she was 2 years old.

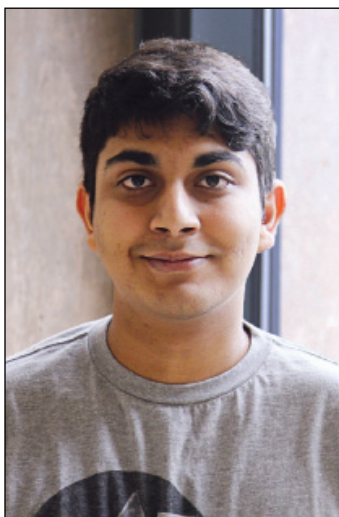
"Every almost two to three years, we'll go and visit family," she said. "We like to keep in touch with our family, so we're, like, usually going back to maybe celebrate some holidays or reconnect with family."

Although Pakistan is not listed on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's executive order fact sheet, Rafaqut said she fears Trump's ban might affect her in the future.

"I wasn't born here," she said. "What if he implements some amendments to his ban that prevents me from being with my family, especially my younger siblings who are



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER PHOTOS
Sidra Rafaqut



Abdussamad Syed



Minal Chama

under the age of 10. I hope it doesn't have an effect."

Trump's executive order, "Protecting The Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into The United States," was signed on Jan. 27 and states that "the immigrant and nonimmigrant entry into the United States of aliens from countries referred to in section 217(a)(12) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1187(a)(12), would be detrimental to the interests of the United States."

The order excludes foreign

nationals traveling on diplomatic visas, North Atlantic Treaty Organization visas, C-2

and G-4 visas.

Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Yemen and Iran are the



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

seven countries affected by the 90-day ban.

In an interview with *The Rider* last Thursday, Samantha Lopez, director of International Admissions and Student Services, said nine students from Iran attend UTRGV.

"We sent out a memo to all international students explaining what was happening and what

was our position," Lopez said. "We explained to them that we

visas for travel to the United Nations, and G-1, G-2, G-3

would continue to monitor the most updated developments regarding the executive order. ... We sent the memo on [Jan. 31]. If they have any questions or concerns, [students can] visit us or give us a call."

Lopez said no students were detained after the executive order was signed.

Biology junior Minal Chama is also a member of MSA.

"On me, personally, it doesn't have a direct impact," Chama said about Trump's executive order. "I do worry for the people that, like, I know that might have friends or family and need to go back and forth. They can no longer do that. It's going to increase

Opinion,

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the tension between the Muslim community and the Americans here, even though it shouldn't but it's still going to."

Chama was born in Houston and said she has not faced any unpleasant situations in the Rio Grande Valley.

"[In Houston], you have people that will be like, 'Go back to your country.' They'll say, 'Go back to India,'" she said. "Here in the Valley, I felt a lot more comfortable. People are much more open and know how to mind their business, and if they're curious, they'll ask questions and I'm very open to people asking

See **BAN**, Page 10

When no-smoking rule is broken

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

UTRGV has been a tobacco-free campus since Sept. 1, 2015, but that hasn't stopped some people from lighting up.

The purpose of the policy, as stated in the Handbook of Operating Procedures, is to promote the health, well-being and safety of the UTRGV campus community.

"If you see somebody smoking, you can tell them, 'Hey, we have a policy, no smoking on campus. Please stop smoking,'" said Douglas Arney, senior associate vice president for operations for Finance and Administration. "Some people are comfortable doing this, some not."

If students are not comfortable telling a person to stop smoking, they can let University Police know.

"Campus police will then just ask them politely and inform them that there is a no-smoking policy on campus, 'Please refrain from doing so,'" Arney said.

Also, UTRGV offers a webpage, "Keep UTRGV Tobacco Free," where students can report a person smoking on campus anonymously.

Those who continue to smoke on campus will be routed to the appropriate person.

"If it's an employee, it gets routed to the chief human resource officer," Arney said. "If it is a student, they'll



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

UTRGV students smoke cigarettes outside the Edinburg Liberal Arts Building South last Tuesday. The university is a tobacco-free campus.

route it to the dean of students or their designee. If it's a faculty member, they're routed to the provost or his designee and if it's a contractor, they'll route it to Auxiliary Services or their designee."

Arney said it's those individuals' responsibility to look into the situation

and have a conversation with the person smoking.

"It's a warning the first time ... but if it continues to happen with that individual, then it becomes a disciplinary issue," he said.

For students, there is a disciplinary code of conduct and they would go

through that process. For staff, HR has its own discipline process.

"We would do a write-up," Arney said. "Hopefully, it doesn't get to that point. It hasn't yet."

Faculty have their own process. The chair and dean meet with the faculty member and they make sure the faculty member stops smoking, he said.

"We have a lot of things to do. We will provide you, as an employee, professional counseling and support. We will pay for it," Arney said. "We have nicotine replacement therapy; we will pay for that."

For students, the university offers the Collegiate Recovery Program, where students can get tips to quit smoking.

UTRGV Police Chief Raul Munguia said after his department warns a student to stop smoking, they have not seen them repeat the act.

"There has not been issues with the same person," Munguia said. "We just follow the policy that exists already."

Sandra Masso, a freshman exercise science major, said smoking on campus may hurt people's health.

"I think that smoking on campus is not OK because on campus, we have different types of people that might have major or minor health problems breathing the smoke," Masso said. "I think that smoking can be left to be done somewhere else rather than on campus."

THE RIDER

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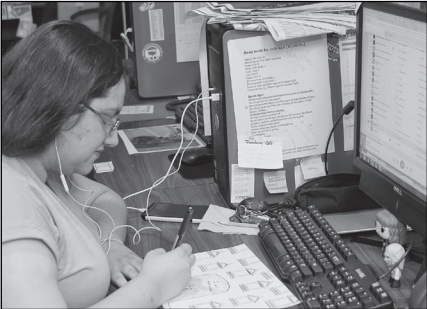
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YOUR NEWS IN ONE PLACE
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

Vaquero Hot Chocolate Bar

The **Student Union** will serve free 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 1.102 in Edinburg. For more information, email david.ortizo2@utrgv.edu.

Tuesday

Talk about it S'more

Sociology and anthropology **Lecturer Jose M. Villarreal** will present “**Black Power Movement/ Civil Rights Movement of the '60s and '70s**” from 8 to 9 p.m. at the University Center Circle in Edinburg in observance of **African-American History Month**. Music will be provided by **The Vangoes** and s'mores and hot chocolate will be served. For more information, call 665-2660.

Mass celebration

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

INKredible Semester

Lambda Theta Alpha Sorority Inc. will host a workshop in which staff will provide tips on how to survive the semester. The workshop is from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in STAC 1.101 on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email maria.neyra01@utrgv.edu.

‘Shark’ investor live stream

The **National Society of Leadership and Success** will live stream with **Barbara Corcoran**, an investor featured on ABC’s “Shark Tank.” The live stream will be from 6 to 7 p.m. in Salón Cassia in Brownsville and at the PlainsCapital Theater in Edinburg. For more information, call 607-7439 or email raul.leal01@utrgv.edu.

Save Yourself an All-Nighter University College invites students to examine the reasons that lead to all-night study sessions from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in Student Academic Services Building 1.101 in Edinburg and in Main 2.236 in Brownsville. For more information, call 665-7919 in Edinburg or 882-7483 in Brownsville or email univ@utrgv.edu.

Wednesday

Kite Flying Day

The **Student Union** invites all students to make their own kite or enjoy watching kites fly from noon to 3 p.m. at the Student Union in Edinburg and at El Comedor on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call

665-7989.

Breakfast To Go

The **Baptist Student Ministry** invites all students to join the organization for a small, free breakfast for the body and soul from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the Main lawn in Brownsville. For more information, email alondra.galvan01@utrgv.edu.

Texas Hold'em Tournament

The **Student Union** invites all students to participate in the **Texas Hold'em Tournament**. The event is from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Student Union Game Room in Edinburg. The top three finishers will win V-Bucks. For more information, call 665-7989.

Laverne Cox lecture

Laverne Cox, who stars in the Netflix series “**Orange Is the New Black**,” will present a lecture titled “**Ain’t I a Woman: My Journey to Womanhood**,” at 7:30 p.m. in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg. Cox’s lecture is part of **Student Involvement’s Distinguish Speaker Series**. Admission is free. For more information, call 665-2660 or email kei.larabermea@utrgv.edu.

Thursday

Treble Thrivers performance

The **Treble Thrivers** will showcase songs they have been working on throughout the year from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Café in Edinburg. For more information, email dianne.dublado01@utrgv.edu.

Thursday Night Blitz

The **Chess Club** invites beginners and casual chess players to its weekly tournament from 4:30 to 11 p.m. in STAC 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.

‘Southside with You’

Student Involvement will screen “Southside with You” from 7 to 10:15 p.m. at the PlainsCapital Bank Theater or the Chapel lawn in Edinburg, depending on the weather. The film is about former **President Barack Obama** and his then soon-to-be wife **Michelle**. For more information, call 665-2660 or email kei.larabermea@utrgv.edu.

Open Espresso

Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority Inc. will conduct an open espresso for prospective members to learn more about the organization from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. in STAC 1.101 in Edinburg. For more information, email maria.neyra01@utrgv.edu.

Friday

Résumé Workshop

The **Pre-Medical Bio-Medical Society** will conduct a workshop on résumés from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in

Science Building 2.104 on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email chelsea.gerlickio1@utrgv.edu.

Sunday

Chinese Lantern Festival

The **Chinese Students and Scholars Association** will celebrate the **Lantern Festival** with free food, music and dancing from 4 to 10 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom in Edinburg. The festival marks the return of spring and symbolizes the reunion of family. For more information, email yuanqing.liao1@utrgv.edu.

Food Sales

Chips

Medical Brigades Brownsville will sell chips with optional corn and cheese from noon to 1 p.m. in the Main Courtyard in Brownsville. For more information, email nitchelle.rodriguez01@utrgv.edu.

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.

Chess Club pizza

The **Chess Club** will sell pizza, snacks and drinks from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday at the Library lawn in Edinburg. For more information, email david.ortizo2@utrgv.edu.

Fruit cups

The **Pre-Medical Bio-Medical Society** will sell fruit cups from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday at the Student Union in Edinburg. For more information, email chelsea.gerlickio1@utrgv.edu.

Fruit smoothies

The **Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization** will sell fruit smoothies from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday at Library Courtyard B in Edinburg. For more information, email josie.balderrama01@utrgv.edu.

Fried Oreos

The **Latino Medical Student Association** will sell fried Oreos from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at Library Courtyard A in Edinburg. For more information, email alma.delamora01@utrgv.edu.

Hot Cheetos

Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc. will sell Hot Cheetos with cheese, gummy bears with *chamoy* and hot dogs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday at the Student Union East Patio. For more information, email yolanda.escobedo01@utrgv.edu.

Taco stand

The **Men’s Soccer Club at UTRGV** will sell tacos from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at the North Quad in Edinburg. For more information, email alejandro.r.garcia01@utrgv.edu.

--Compiled by Marie Vallangca

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Jan. 26 and 31.



Jan. 26

8:38 a.m.: A staff member reported losing two university keys at an unknown time and location. The keys opened doors of the Community Engagement and Student Success Building on the Edinburg campus.

9 a.m.: A student reported losing her engagement ring while on the Brownsville campus. She was at the library for several hours, but does not know when, where and how she misplaced the ring.

1:49 p.m.: A dirty smoke detector triggered a fire alarm at the Unity Hall dorms on the Edinburg campus. The Edinburg Fire Department cleared the building for re-entry.

Jan. 27

10:40 a.m.: A staff member reported that over the last several weeks, miscellaneous food items have gone

missing from the staff/faculty lounge in the Education Complex on the Edinburg campus. The staff member was referred to the appropriate dean’s office to address the matter internally.

4:25 p.m.: A student reported that her cell phone was stolen while she left it charging on the second-floor lounge of the Business Administration Building on the Edinburg campus. The cell phone was later turned in to lost and found at the University Library.

Jan. 28

8:41 a.m.: A university key was found on a cart by the entrance door of a science lab in the Biomedical Research and Health Professions Building on the Brownsville campus. Later, three people called for access to the lab where the key was found and two people called claiming ownership of the key. A staff member who was issued the key had lent it to his graduate students to enter the lab without going through the

police department for access. The key was held for further inquiry.

Jan. 31

10:15 a.m.: A student reported injuring his left arm due to a fall while skateboarding in the B3 parking lot on the Brownsville campus. He was lying on the pavement until evaluated by emergency medical services personnel, who confirmed the student suffered a closed bone fracture. He was transported to Valley Baptist Medical Center-Brownsville.

3:12 p.m.: A University of Texas System employee reported that a UT System-issued iPad and case were stolen from a construction trailer located in lot B1 on the Brownsville campus. The theft occurred between noon and 7 p.m Jan. 27.

6:10 p.m.: A student reported her purse was stolen on the Brownsville campus.

--Compiled by Macarena Martinez

Posting? Stop and think

Macarena Martinez
THE RIDER

The benefits of social media are endless, but a rude post or comment can affect you when applying for a job. “Social media is crucial when applying for a job, particularly if in your social media profiles you are using your real name,” said Josse Garrido, social media manager for UTRGV’s University Marketing and Communication. “It becomes critical that you have a very good and solid social media presence to showcase your potential professionalism and to also demonstrate that you have skills and you have people skills.”

Employers look at social media profiles to make sure the candidate is not different in person, said Alondra Galvan, vice president of the Student Government Association.

“The first thing they do is automatically check your social media to make sure that you’re not only a good person when you are getting interviewed, but that you are a good person as well outside of the workplace,” Galvan said.

After students graduate, some may not have enough work experience to help the employer decide whether to hire them. What the employer will do is get that background from social media to fill in the gaps, Garrido said.

“Career Builder did a ... survey [for] many HR directors and practically asked them, ‘How many of you look at social media when you are recruiting candidates?’ and the response was 60 percent

of them look at social media,” said Juan Rodriguez-Nieto, director of UTRGV’s Career Center.

Student Government Association President Denisse Molina-Castro served as an intern in the office of U.S. Rep. Filemon Vela (D-Texas). They told her that she was representing the office and advised her on social media precautions.

Many precautions and measures should be taken into consideration while using social media when applying for jobs. For example, if you would not say something to a person face-to-face,

do not say it on social media, Garrido said.

“I have seen students that are frustrated with maybe a company, maybe with a department ... and they are posting and they are bashing about it,” Garrido said. “They are very critical, using bad words. They don’t show any measure of restraint or self-respect for many situations and then I wonder ... how do they think they are going to get a job after this, after being so nasty on social media?”

Another recommendation is to check that you have two types of social media. The professional one, which would be your LinkedIn profile, and then your personal social media, Rodriguez-Nieto said.

“Making sure that you don’t have pictures of you with alcohol or drugs or anything illicit,” he said. “Make sure that your comments are not inflammatory or derogatory.”

Always show professionalism, post



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LESLEY ROBLES

A student browses social media apps on his phone. Social media can be a helpful or hurtful tool.

important information that you like, Molina-Castro said. For example, if the student is majoring in engineering, share stuff about engineering. If a student has a question about a particular field, post it on social media.

“Any kind of special merits, awards, anything that you receive, post it on social media because you want to brag about it, you want to showcase what you are made of,” Garrido said.

When on social media, if a student has a professional opinion on different matters, they should voice it, Garrido said.

“For example, if you are studying finance, and you see a new regulation. You have an opinion about it. ... Voice your

professional opinion based on what you have learned in your classes. ... Of course, try to show a level of restraint,” he said.

On the other hand, social media has many benefits. If social media is used correctly, it can give you that extra push and in a few cases, it will get you hired, Garrido said.

Many students choose not to post on social media because they are representing the university.

“I do represent the university and the student body. ... I don’t want to be a bad role model for UTRGV and the student body,” Molina-Castro said.

As graduation approaches, Garrido sends students an email about the importance of

LinkedIn. If you are a recent graduate, you are about to graduate or you are beginning the journey, LinkedIn is very good and is your online résumé, plus more, he said.

Lastly, “Google yourself and find out what’s out there about you,” Rodriguez-Nieto said.

To learn more about LinkedIn or to sign up, visit [linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com).

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

Federal grant helps professor promote literacy across Valley

Marie Vallangca
THE RIDER

To encourage literacy in the Valley, UTRGV Professor Steven Schneider applied for and received a Big Read Grant from the National Education Association, a federal agency that promotes arts programming across the United States.

“I’m a big proponent of the value of reading and we know in our culture, in our campus and universities across the country, reading rates are declining,” Schneider said. “I don’t want to see reading be lost as a cognitive activity. I think reading is important.”

The Big Read program encourages reading and participation by diverse audiences, according to the NEA website.

UTRGV—and its partner, the Dustin Michael Sekula Memorial Library in Edinburg—is among 77 organizations across the country that were awarded the grant for 2016-17 through a competitive process.

Schneider received the \$16,000 grant in Spring 2016. However, he and his partner decided to announce the Big Read to coincide with the university’s Festiba, which takes place Feb. 27 to March 4. The university hosts the annual event to promote literacy and an appreciation of the arts and humanities, according to UTRGV’s website.



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER

Creative writing Professor Steven Schneider holds the English and Spanish versions of the novel, “In the Time of the Butterflies,” by Julia Alvarez.

“We feel very privileged to be selected as a community partner with the university for this grant,” said Letty Leija, director of the Dustin Michael Sekula Memorial Library. “It’s a great opportunity for us to bring these amazing books to the whole community. We like to thank, regionally, from Rio Grande City to Brownsville. And it’s a great opportunity to continue to encourage the love of reading and great literature. It’s always a very interesting experience and we

feel very privileged to be part of that.”

The grant is being used to conduct programming on and off campus related to the Big Read Program. It is also used to buy books that are given out and to sponsor guest speakers who are brought to present to the community, such as Juan Felipe Herrera, the U.S. poet laureate. Herrera is a California native and son of migrant farmworkers who has written more than a dozen poetry collections,

according to the Library of Congress website, www.loc.gov.

Each grant applicant must select a book from 20 to 25 list choices on the NEA website. Schneider and his community partners chose the book, “In the Time of the Butterflies,” by Julia Alvarez.

“One of the criteria that I use in selecting the book is how it is going to connect or relate to our students and to our community,” Schneider said. “One of my philosophies

about reading and teaching is to use what I call a culturally relevant approach and so we choose books that our students and our community will be able to relate to culturally.”

Schneider and the Edinburg Memorial Library invited other public libraries and school districts from Rio Grande City to Brownsville to participate. There are about 25 book discussions happening in the Rio Grande Valley and the leaders just received the books last week to be distributed to their own groups.

The book discussion groups will be held in time for UTRGV’s Festiba. The National Endowment for the Arts Big Read plays an important role in UTRGV’s festival of books. There will be several activities during Festiba related to the book. A movie based on the book, a play based loosely on the book and art contest will be hosted at the Edinburg Library.

To join the book discussions or for more information about Festiba or NEA’s Big Read, email letty@edinburglibrary.us.

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Campus Q&A

What are your thoughts on President Trump's recent executive orders?




“Pues, de la más reciente y como Mexicana, se me hace muy ridículo que quiera a fuerzas hacernos pagar por un muro que definitivamente no se necesita. Además de que dentro de sus propuestas para que nosotros le paguemos es cobrarle a los carteles de México, lo cual es tirarse encima una guerra grandísima. Otra cosa, cuando dijo que quería bloquearle la entrada a las personas de países de medio oriente también es una ridiculéz porque hay muchas personas que a veces tienen que viajar a Estados Unidos y hacer negocios y ya no va a ser posible visitar a sus familias incluso. Lo de las pipas también, quitarles su derecho a los nativos americanos de seguir teniendo esa accesibilidad en su territorio, es también como que muy ridículo”.

Elsa Torres
Estudiante de tercer año de psicología




“I think that in some part it’s depressing, because ever since he has started his campaign and from his promises to what he has actually taken action on, it’s hurting our relationship with our neighbor in the south, Mexico, for example. He’s creating issues with a country that has only been our ally. Apart from that, with his other executive actions, it’s not going to help our development as a society. We are trying to move forward from what has been from the past, what has hurt us, and it seems like we’re not necessarily learning from history. We’re trying to repeat it, sadly, with his administration. So, I think it’s depressing. I think it’s sad but, at the same time, I have hope that as a nation we can rise up and show him that we are better than this.”

Jorge Hinojosa
Mass communication senior



“I honestly don’t really believe in his opinions, just because I feel like he’s taking things out of proportions, very irrational. I feel like he’s making quick decisions and that’s bad. He’s hurting the economy; he’s hurting all these immigrants that have been here for several years and without a choice. They just came to America; he’s like, ‘OK, you’re going to go back to where you came from.’ That’s not fair because they didn’t have a choice, because they came here with their parents and stuff. Also, the whole abortion thing, he just took away our rights to have abortions. I don’t have a choice anymore. If I get pregnant, oh well, too late, too bad. I can’t do anything about it; it’s illegal now. He’s just taking a lot without asking.”

Danielle Rodriguez
Mass communication senior



“I think they are uncalled for and unnecessary because there are many people from the places that have been restricted to come to the U.S. that are only here to work and I think it is restricting many people who are legally allowed to be in the U.S. to perform their daily duties and if you look up the numbers online, I think it is unnecessary because more people die from other Americans than from terrorist attacks. So, it is ‘removing’ something that is not really much of a problem every year.”

Aldo Bañuelos
Computer science sophomore

--Compiled by Ana Cahuiche and Gabriel Mata



Land of the free?



Karina Aguirre
THE RIDER

Just recently, the 45th president of the United States of America was sworn into office. A familiar and certainly meme-worthy face, Donald J. Trump, is now the leader of our nation. With a celebrity taking office, it’s safe to say we knew it would be dramatic, and he’s delivered quite a performance so far. On his first day in office, the new president began to follow through with two of his major campaign promises.

Let’s start with the border wall. The massive structure is expected to be at least 1,300 miles long and 40 feet high, according to CNN Money. The total cost of the project is still uncertain. During his campaign, President Trump promised that Mexico would pay for it, but said later that Americans would pay for it and Mexico would reimburse the United States.

“I would build a great wall, and nobody builds walls better than me, believe me, and I’ll build them very inexpensively--I will build a great, great wall on our southern border,” he said. “And, I will have Mexico pay for that wall. Mark my words.”

Yet, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto has said that Mexico has no intentions of paying for the structure. So, now we ask ourselves, what is the truth?

Continuing on the topic of immigration, Trump has suspended the resettlement of Syrian refugees and is temporarily banning “immigrants and nonimmigrants” from seven Muslim nations from entering the U.S. The ban sparked many protests, including a massive one at JFK Airport in Queens, N.Y.

In this day and age, social media is the go to place to vent for or against everything. It’s no surprise that after the recent news, Twitter was a safe haven for

opinions. One of those came from former Mexican President Vicente Fox. Fox said that Mexico was indeed not going to pay for the wall and, with a single tweet, the hashtag he created, “F-----Wall,” became a trending topic.

Big-name celebrities such as Seth Rogen, Chrissy Teigen, Kerry Washington and icon Kim Kardashian West all took to social media to show their disapproval of the president’s Muslim ban. The Twitter world was in complete chaos.

As the daughter of immigrants, the news of our president’s executive orders hit home. Do I believe that there are bad people trying to come into the country that so many of us call home? Yes and no.

It doesn’t seem logical to say that every single person coming to the U.S. has good intentions, but I am sure that the vast majority of immigrants come here in search of a better life. I have asked my father many times why he decided to leave his beautiful home country to come to America. His answer

“The whole point of America is to have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It’s unfair to deny people those basic American rights.”

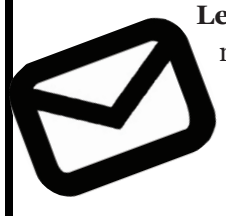
is always the same, “for you.”

Building a wall or not allowing the entry of somebody who practices a certain religion will not keep immigrants out. When you are fleeing from danger and hardship for your family, you find a way. Instead of instilling fear and claiming that people from a certain country are evil, why not embrace the fact that your country is still seen as a better place? America is still seen as a place where opportunity lives and thrives. The thought of people wanting a better life for their loved ones and being denied that right is heartbreaking.

Whenever I cross over to Mexico to visit my family, I always stop and think of how fortunate I am to be able to come and go so freely. My parents sacrificed so much to give me the life that I have now.

The whole point of America is to have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It’s unfair to deny people those basic American rights.

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.

Advocate for accessibility retiring

Clarissa Martinez
THE RIDER

After working for UTRGV and one of its legacy institutions for 30 years, Student Accessibility Services Assistant Director Steve Wilder will retire Friday from the university.

“It’s been a wonderful time, really. There’s been so much positive change. This is a beautiful campus, and we’ve had, I think, outstanding leadership to, sort of, move us forward,” Wilder said in a sit-down interview with *The Rider*.

Wilder decided it was the best time to retire as the university continues to make changes.

“The pace of change is picking up,” he said. “I’ve been here, as you know, for quite a few years. I think it’s time for others to take over. ... And so, I just think, well, it’s time. My wife is retired, I can retire. I’m in good health, I can travel.”

Wilder joined Pan American University at Brownsville in the fall of 1987 and worked at the counseling center. He was hired on a grant to help develop a program that assisted students with disabilities transitioning from high school to college.

“That was before the ADA, before the Americans [with] Disabilities Act,” Wilder said. “So, the college had no plan, really, no organized method for helping students with disabilities get into college and get the services they needed at college. ... At the same time, I was just seeing all the other students. Not so much as a counselor, so much as more like an adviser.”

After his first 14 years at the university, he was assigned to run the Disabilities Services office, which changed to Student Accessibility Services under UTRGV. Wilder’s job is to inform the campus community about accessibility services available for disabled students and provide that information to the students’ professors. “We’re always trying to let students



CLARISSA MARTINEZ/THE RIDER

Steve Wilder

know that there are services available,” he said. “There are students on campus who have disabilities who, perhaps, don’t know where to turn. They need some kind of support. Maybe they need more time on tests. They need to take tests by themselves. They need to have flexibility with their attendance because of their mental health issues or health issues, period.

“When they meet with us, then we can provide a letter for their professors to let them know that these accommodations that we’re spelling out on the letter are officially sanctioned.”

Student Accessibility Services

Director Tonya Paulette started working with Wilder prior to Fall 2015 in preparation for the start of UTRGV. Both share a commitment to supporting students through their offices.

Though she has only worked with Wilder for two years, Paulette knows Wilder has had a positive impact on students throughout his career, especially since they work with students on an individual basis.

“He’s probably touched a lot of students and supported a lot of students in a way that they remember him fondly. I know that, in talking with the staff at the Brownsville

office, that they’ll share with me that a student that was here several years ago stopped by to, you know, say hello to him and thank him for supporting him, supporting the student through their college endeavors,” Paulette said.

Paulette felt that it was best to honor Wilder with a celebration to wish him well. Previous co-workers of Wilder from Texas Southmost College and the University of Texas at Brownsville have been invited, as well as faculty and staff from outside the department and outside of Student Life.

“We wanted to make sure that, before he leaves us for his retirement, that we had an opportunity to really honor the service and years that he’s put into serving students with UTRGV and the legacy institutions,” she said. “I don’t think it’s very common anymore to see someone who has continued in a role as he has, especially in a particular department, for, you know, that long.”

Diana Cardiel, program specialist for Student Accessibility Services, has worked with Wilder for nine years. She describes his work ethic as excellent as he strives to meet students’ needs and make them known through accessibility awareness.

“He always has been putting their needs into every decision the department makes,” Cardiel said. “Meeting with faculty was something that he enjoyed doing so he would [be] better able to educate the campus community of the access issues that our students faced.”

She said Wilder’s 30 years in higher education has left a mark within the community, as well as the message that the department and office has of striving and continuing to seek access for students with disabilities on campus.

“That in itself is his legacy,” Cardiel said.

Wilder has many fond memories from his career, including the

See **WILDER**, Page 10

Club Spotlight



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Members of Her Campus at UTRGV include (from left) Historian Brenda Garza, Adviser Greg Selber, President Victoria De Leon, Vice President/Editor in Chief Jamie Treviño, Social Media Director Ana Avila, Event Planner Maria Garza, Kenia Gomez and Co-Editor Laura De León.

Name: Her Campus at UTRGV

Purpose: Her Campus UTRGV, a branch of HerCampus.com, is an online magazine for the college women of UTRGV, with features on campus news, events, career, love, style, life, health, profiles, polls and even campus cuties. The content of Her Campus UTRGV is written entirely by UTRGV students. Her Campus is the No. 1 new-media brand for the empowered college woman.

President: Victoria De Leon

Vice President/Editor in Chief: Jamie Treviño

Senior Editor: Neilby Rodriguez

Co-Editor: Laura De León

Marketing and Publicity Directors: Genesis Flores and Denisse Luna

Social Media Directors: Karla Leal and Ana Avila

Event Planner: Maria Garza

Historian: Brenda Garza

Adviser: Greg Selber, communication associate professor

Activities: Publish weekly articles on our online magazine, plan and coordinate events on campus and participate in philanthropy work.

Meetings: 12:15 p.m. Thursdays in ELABS 161 on the Edinburg campus

Membership requirements: \$15 membership fee. Journalists should submit at least two articles per month.

For more information, email: victoria.m.deleon01@utrgv.edu or jamie.d.trevino001@utrgv.edu

Her Campus website: <http://www.hercampus.com/school/utrgv>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hercampusutrgv>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/hercampusutrgv>

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--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza

Valentine's Day!

UTRGV students, faculty and staff:

If you would like to send a Valentine's Day message to your *sweetheart*, call reporter Nubia Reyna at 882-5143 by 5 p.m. Wednesday.


The messages will be published in the Feb. 13 issue of the newspaper.

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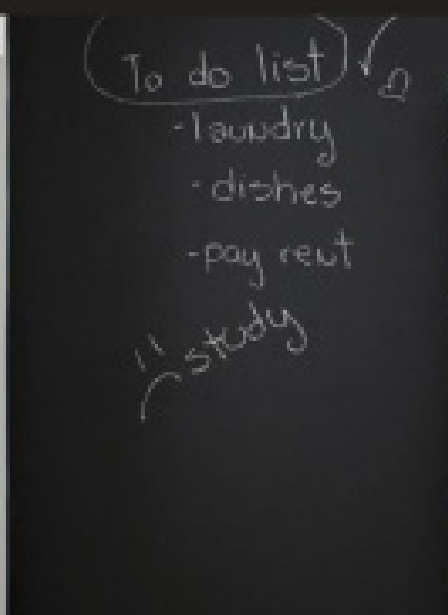
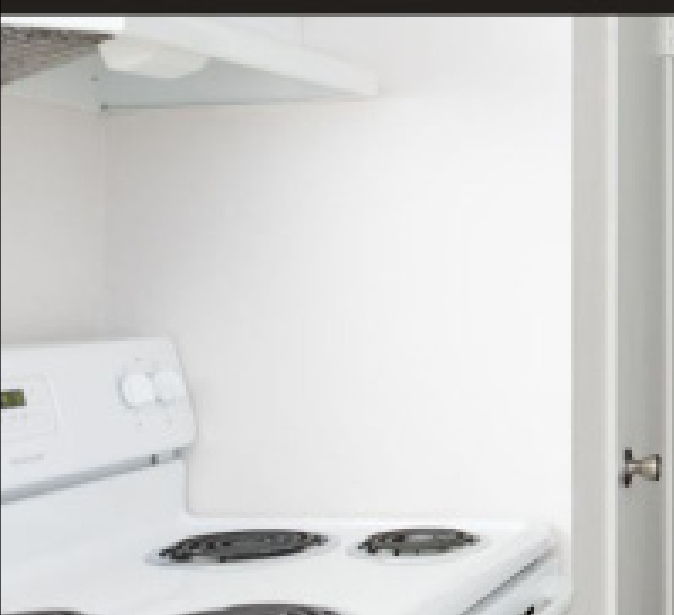
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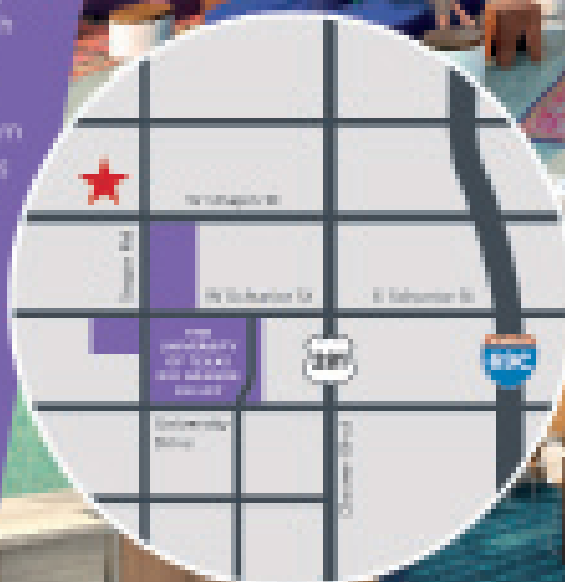
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FOTO CORTESÍA

De izquierda a derecha: Mónica Raygada, Leticia Sandoval, Priscilla Suárez, Rossy Evelin Lima, Juan Felipe Herrera (poeta laureado de los EEUU), Gerald Padilla, Eréndira Santillana, Jazmín Rodríguez y René Tamez, durante FeiPoL 2016.

Rebeca Ortiz

EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

El Festival Internacional de Poesía Latinoamericana (FeiPoL) presentará las obras *Antología 2016* y *Antología de Poesía Joven* en la XXVI Feria del Libro en La Habana, Cuba, este jueves. La Feria Internacional del Libro de La Habana, que es considerada “el evento cultural más significativo del movimiento editorial cubano”, comenzó a celebrarse en 1982, y tiene su sede permanente en la Fortaleza de San Carlos de la Cabaña, en La Habana.

Eréndira Santillana, estudiante de posgrado en literatura hispánica de UTRGV y directora del comité de inscripciones de FeiPoL, acudirá en su representación para promocionar



ANA CAHUICHE/ THE RIDER

Eréndira Santillana, estudiante de posgrado en literatura hispánica, promocionará los libros *Antoloía 2016* y *Antología de Poesía Joven* publicados por FeiPoL en la Feria del Libro de La Habana.

ambas antologías en el 1er Encuentro Internacional de Promotores de la Poesía y en el XVII Encuentro de Jóvenes Escritores de Latinoamérica y El Caribe.

“De cierto modo ... estoy representando a FeiPoL a partida doble, pero también a mi persona en el de poetas jóvenes, porque hay ciertas mesas donde hay pura lectura de poesía. Ahí voy a leer mi poesía, pero en las mesas que se tratan sobre difusión poética, dentro del encuentro de jóvenes, ahí voy a hablar de FeiPoL directamente”, dijo Santillana, quien además es coeditora de *Antología 2016*.

A m b a s antologías son la compilación poética de todos los escritores que asistieron al festival y que participaron en cualquiera de las dos convocatorias de poesía del 2016 (de a d m i s i ó n general y para estudiantes de preparatoria). Ambas son publicadas como parte de FeiPoL.

FeiPoL fue creada y presentada por LAFA (Latin American Foundation for the Arts), ambas fundadas en el 2015 por la poeta y lingüista egresada de University of Texas Pan American, Rossy Evelin Lima, y por su esposo, Gerald Padilla, para la promoción y gestación de las artes Latinoamericanas en los Estados Unidos, en este caso en la comunidad del Rio Grande.

“Para nosotros es un honor estar participando en La Habana porque es algo que surge aquí en el Valle, desde el sur de Texas. Estamos exportando nuestro talento a estos lugares donde van personas de todo el mundo”, dijo Lima, la fundadora del festival y editora de las antologías.

FeiPoL que además de presentar una amplia selección de escritores Latinoamericanos a una audiencia internacional, ofrece un espacio a otras

artes, tales como la fotografía, música y las artes visuales. Dentro del festival de poesía se ofrecen talleres, lecturas de poesía y pláticas con los invitados de honor. Los eventos serán gratuitos y abiertos al público.

Padilla, fundador y vicepresidente del festival, dijo crear fundamentales los espacios como FeiPoL, pues buscan “darle un espacio a esas personas que se quieren expresar a través de las artes, especialmente la poesía, en tiempos como estos donde se necesita cierto apoyo social”.

El primer festival internacional de poesía se llevó a cabo con arrollador éxito en septiembre del 2016, en la ciudad de McAllen. L o g r ó congrega a renombrados escritores de C o l o m b i a , U r u g u a y , Puerto Rico y Estados Unidos y contó con la exposición fotográfica, “Unaccompanied”, de Oliver Contreras, y con instalaciones artísticas de Gaby Rico y Victoria Cárdenas.

“Decidimos hacer un festival en donde se celebrara toda la poesía, la poesía latinoamericana y que tuviera la inclusión de los mejores poetas actuales de Latinoamérica”, dijo Lima. “Tuvimos a los mejores exponentes y a muchos otros poetas que participaron y vinieron de muchos otros lugares”. FeiPoL 2017 se llevará a cabo el 6 y 7 de octubre en el Cooper Center de South Texas College, localizado en 3201 W. Pecan Ave. en McAllen.

Los invitados de honor del festival de poesía para este año son Rigoberto González de USA/México, Elizabeth Acevedo de República Dominicana/ USA, Jorge Miguel Cocom Pech de Nación Maya/México y Jorge Galán de El Salvador.

Noche FeiPoL, que consiste en actividades para todas las edades y para toda la familia tomará lugar el viernes 6 de octubre de 8 p.m. a 12 a.m. en el Art Village, 800 N. Main St. en McAllen. “Nuestra meta al iniciar este festival fue el de unir a toda Latinoamérica, sin importar si eran inmigrantes recientes, si todavía están allá, si llevan mucho tiempo ... unirnos porque sentimos que es lo que más nos hace falta en este momento”, dijo Lima.

Para la convocatoria de Poetas Jóvenes se recolectaron alrededor de 100 poemas de estudiantes de nueve diferentes preparatorias del Valle, entre McAllen, Weslaco, Hidalgo, La Joya y San Juan. “La mayoría de estos textos están escritos en español ... lo cual significa que estos muchachos están escribiendo también en español”, dijo Lima.

“Para nosotros, una manera de unirnos, tanto como inmigrantes en Estados Unidos, tanto como parte de Latinoamérica, es a través de la poesía. Porque se nos hace que la poesía es un vehículo en donde podemos expresarnos con toda la libertad del mundo y también darnos cuenta de que si bien tenemos muchas diferencias. En el corazón seguimos siendo los mismos y eso es lo que más nos tiene que unir”, dijo Lima.

Antología 2016 y *Antología de Poesía Joven* se pueden obtener a través de todos los medios en línea y en diferentes eventos que realiza la FeiPoL.

“ Para nosotros, una manera de unirnos, tanto como inmigrantes en Estados Unidos, tanto como parte de Latinoamérica, es a través de la poesía. ”

Rossy Evelin Lima
Fundadora de FeiPoL

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Turkish delights

Trio of basketball players leans on each other to adjust

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

The jump from high school or club basketball to college hoops is a big leap. Throw in a 15-hour flight, nine-hour time difference and a new culture. That's more like an Evel Knievel jump over a few buses.

For three Turkish-born UTRGV basketball players, that's exactly what they're doing.

Idil Türk, Tuana Dinç and Onuralp Demirer come from the distant land situated between the Mediterranean and Black Seas.

Türk, who is only a sophomore, is actually the veteran of the three. The two others are freshmen this season.

Dinç and Türk knew each other by going through the same club basketball team back home. They weren't close back then, but have become inseparable as teammates. Dinç says the friendship is way beyond just the court by now.

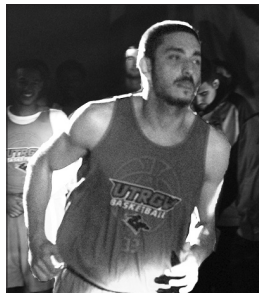
"We travel together, [coming to and from school and home] so we got really close," said Dinç, a freshman forward. "Now she's

one of my best friends. I'm gonna go and see her when we are in Turkey, too. We're always together. I go to her room before mine after my classes."

The time difference is something all three struggle

them [after the games.] It's always good to have someone supporting you, behind you. Even if I have bad games, my parents will still encourage me."

Türk is in her second year but is averaging 20.3 min-



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER
Onuralp Demirer



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER
Idil Türk



PHOTO COURTESY RAZIEL SANCHEZ
Tuana Dinç

utes per game and has started in 10 games so far. Her coach, Larry Tidwell, has called her one of the best shooters he's ever coached. She leads the team in three-pointers with 41, three ahead of senior Shawnte' Goff.

Türk, a 5-foot-9 guard with a knack for the three-pointer, says her family sacrifices sleep to watch her play.

"They always wake up. They set their alarms and wake up," she said. "They don't go to bed until I text

with. A UTRGV game starting at 7 p.m. Central would start at 4 a.m. in Turkey. This isn't enough to stop their families from keeping a watchful eye on the Vaqueros.

Her success on the court serves as inspiration for her newcomer teammates. Demirer said he keeps up with Türk's stats after every game.

"When I go away with the

team after coming out from the game, I'll check the women's game stats," he said. "Seeing that she did good just makes me happy. I text her, 'Good job, keep doing it.' She likes to work as well; she's a hard worker. It just makes me feel happy to see that [it pays off] when you work hard. She's getting the results."

Demirer has not cracked the starting lineup yet for Head Coach Lew Hill's men's team. The freshman knows that hard work is the way to playing time. He's no stranger to working hard.

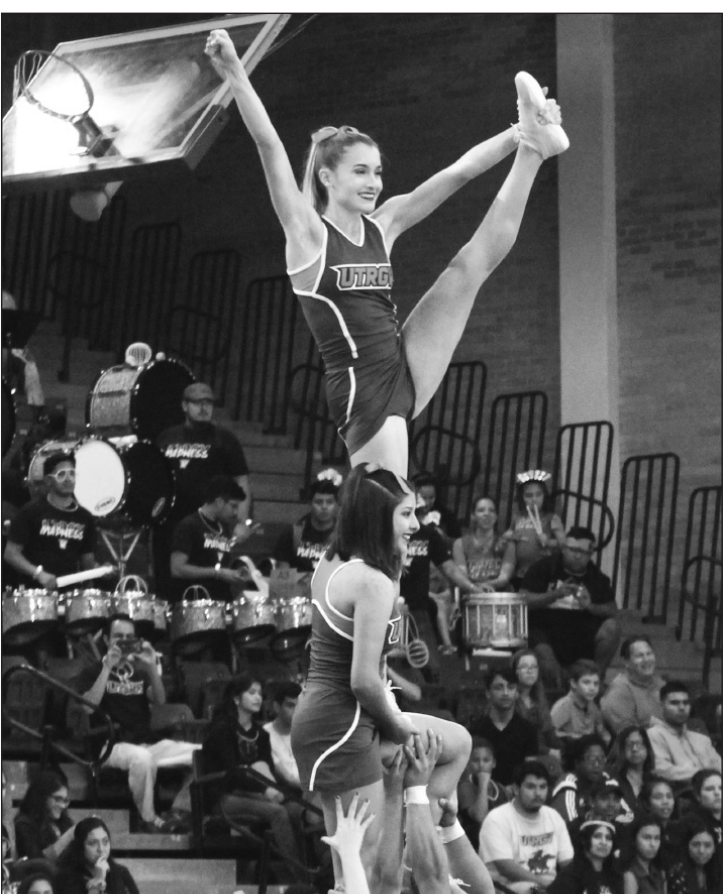
"College basketball is not like anything else," he said. "I knew I had to get better, and the only way to do it is to work. I know that if you want to be successful, you have to make sacrifices. So, I wake up at 5:30 a.m. every day."

Demirer wakes up that early to get in a few hundred shots before the women's team starts practice. He's been on that schedule since coming to UTRGV to improve his game.

When Türk was asked about Demirer's work ethic, she laughed and said she heard from a few people that maybe it's a "Turkish" thing.

She put it simply: "I think we just love playing basketball, ball is life."

Cheer team goes national



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER

Renee Martinez and the UTRGV cheer squad support Clair Guzman (top) during a routine at UTRGV Madness Oct. 21 in the Fieldhouse in Edinburg.

Marie Vallangca
THE RIDER

Perseverance and determination are among the steps to achieve your dreams. Once you're there, you feel thrilled because the sacrifices you've made make it worthwhile to be standing in the spotlight.

That is what members of the UTRGV Cheer Team felt last month, when they joined students from more than 70 universities to compete in one of the most prestigious cheer competitions in the country, the Universal Cheerleading As-

sociation College Nationals (UCA) at the ESPN World Wide News Sports Complex in Orlando, Fla.

Most of them dreamed of competing in cheer at a collegiate level since they started cheerleading in middle school. Just the experience is a dream come true for most. Some even crossed it off their bucket list.

"I've always dreamt of competing at college nationals," cheer captain Ana Avila said. "It's like no other All-Star competition could compare to, and I grew up doing All Star. School cheer

competition is nothing like the college level, so that was an amazing experience. The fact that I was able to accomplish that, that was something that was definitely on my bucket list and I was so happy it happened this year and with this team."

The team competed in Small Co-Ed Division I with 17 other universities. The team placed 13th in its division, and 11 universities advanced to the finals. Even though they didn't qualify for the finals, the members believed that they did well in their division, represented the university well enough and are proud of their performance.

"I left the competition knowing that we tried our best and that we left the competition knowing that we left the mark we wanted to leave for UTRGV and the reputation we wanted for UTRGV," said Joshua Perez, a first-year member of the team.

The UTRGV Cheer Team was recognized for its crowd effectiveness, creativity and community service. The cheer teams that did not advance to finals received a 2017 College Cheerleading and Dance Team National Competition at Walt Disney World plaque participation award.

To qualify for nationals, each team must submit a video displaying their skills and talent. A total of 20 members of the cheer team participated, with 16 competing on the mat.

The UTRGV cheer coach held a tryout among the cheer members to fill in the spots she thought were best suited for the nationals. The handpicked athletes practiced nonstop until the day of the competition. Aside

from the practice they need for competition, they also have practice for basketball season and schoolwork. Even during the holiday break for the whole university, the cheer team did not stop practicing for the contest.

The team practiced twice a day, from morning till afternoon and a break for lunch. Janet Peña, the team's cheer and dance coordinator, said the team is dedicated to its work as athletes.

"The kids showed a lot of heart, a lot of pride and dedication," Peña said.

Preparing for a huge competition that only happens once a year, the cheer team met and overcame obstacles in their way. For one, the team does not have its own facility or enough equipment to practice for nationals; they practiced at local gyms.

This is the first time the cheer team competed as UTRGV and it has been a long time coming, according to the team's coach, Lora Solis, who cheered at legacy institution University of Texas Pan American. The squad did not compete last year because it is still building a strong foundation for the UTRGV Cheer Team.

Students interested in joining the team must have two years of varsity experience or past participation in cheerleading competition. They must have a 2.5 GPA year round and attend 80 percent to 90 percent of the athletic games, community and university events. Important characteristics are dedication, athleticism and loyalty.

For more information, email lora.solis@utrgv.edu.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER

Name: Nick Dixon
Sport: Basketball
Position: Guard
Classification: Junior
Major: Communication
Age: 23

Hometown: Hillside, Ill.

Who is your favorite athlete? "My favorite athlete is Muhammad Ali just 'cause of everything he stood for and he's a real competitor."

Who is your role model? "My role model is Malcolm X because of the things he stood for during the Civil Rights Movement and how he's just a good leader."

What was the best advice you've been given and by whom? "I believe it was from Tupac [Shakur]'s lyrics, 'Through every dark night, there's a bright day after.' It's just like if you got struggles in life, there's a light at the end of the tunnel. It just helps me to stay focused."

When did you begin playing basketball, and why? "I played at, like, 5 years old. My dad forced me into it and it just became a natural thing."

What is your favorite place to hang out on campus? "Probably, just around [The Village] with my teammates."

What are your academic goals? "Just to improve each semester. A 3.0 is always my target."

How do you feel about being part of this team? "I feel good. I'm humbled by it just because I came back this year and I appreciate all my teammates and coaches."

What are your personal goals for this season? "To make the NCAA tournament and win the [WAC] conference tournament."

--Compiled by Sarah Carvajal

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Breaking bread



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Architecture sophomore Brianna Benavidez (from left), nursing sophomore Nallely Salas and UTRGV graduate Mia Lee enjoy lunch and chat during a picnic hosted by the Bible Study Club last Thursday on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus.

BAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

questions.”

In an email sent to international students, the Office of Global Engagement provided recommendations from International SOS, which is a comprehensive, 24/7 medical and security assistance provider, according to the UT System website.

Some of the recommendations from International SOS include the following:

--Individuals from the affected countries that hold current visas for the U.S. should consult their local U.S. embassy regarding the validity of their entry to the country.

--Citizens from the affected countries who have visas and reside in the U.S. should not travel internationally without a waiver to re-enter the U.S.

--Nationals from countries not listed above are currently not affected by the executive order; however, the situation is fluid, and if they have concerns, they

should contact their airline to confirm they will be allowed to board an aircraft to the U.S.

Lopez said if students need to contact her department after business hours, they may call University Police at 665-7151 or 882-8232.

“We will keep them informed as much as we can, as soon as we have more information,” she said. “If they have any questions, we are here to answer them. ... If you read the order, it’s just the entry. So, nothing is happening to the people that are here. ... [Students] should feel safe and they should continue studying, focusing on their classes and making sure they’re having a successful semester.”

Biology senior and MSA member Abdussamad Syed said he was planning on attending a family wedding in India but is now unsure if he will.

“In the summer, I have family that are getting married in India, so I was hoping to go visit them,” Syed said. “Depending on how this pans out, I don’t know if I can go visit them.”

He said even though he was born in

the United States, he plans to be more careful when it comes to travel as precautions for his safety.

UTRGV President Guy Bailey sent an email last Tuesday regarding the Trump’s executive order.

“In light of the recent Executive Order temporarily banning select travelers from seven countries, I want to reaffirm our commitment to all of our students, faculty, and staff regardless of national origin, citizenship, or religious affiliation,” Bailey states in his email. “UTRGV has and will continue to welcome scholars and students from around the world. Although we have a small number of students enrolled from the affected countries and no affected visiting faculty, we value the contributions of these students to UTRGV and our campus community, and all of us are richer because of their contributions. Similarly, we have and will continue to welcome and celebrate our Muslim students, faculty, and staff as well as those of any religious affiliation.”

UT System Chancellor William

WILDER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

various activities during Accessibility Awareness Week, an observance held by Student Accessibility Services that focuses on accessibility rather than disability, Wilder said.

Another fond memory of his is when the university held an American Sign Language Talent Show.

“Every year we’ve had a fair, like activities, and you can experience dyslexia and learn a bit of sign language,” Wilder said. “In the earlier years, we had an ASL talent show. It was a talent show with deaf students and interpreters, and a large audience filling up the Student Union. Very funny, entertaining, you know, just a talent show. And it was so much fun, I really enjoyed it. That was, I think, one of the highlights of my time.”

He trusts that as UTRGV continues to move forward, there will be great progress for student accessibility.

“There’s going to be a greater knowledge, awareness, among all staff, in particularly faculty, about what they can do, what can be done to help make courses more accessible so that fewer students actually need accommodations,” he said.

Wilder describes his career as a calling, and that it’s been fulfilling.

“It’s a gift to have found your calling,” he said. “When I was a student in college, I didn’t know what I was gonna do. I didn’t know what my calling was, actually, and I was already unwittingly making steps towards it ‘cause I was already starting to work, sometimes, with young people with disabilities or with mental health issues. ... And it turns out that that became my career and it’s very, very fulfilling to have found that. And then to be able to work in such a supportive environment with leadership that seems to understand and wants to support you in your work.”

The department will honor Wilder at a celebration set for 2 to 4 p.m. Friday in Cortez Hall 118 in Brownsville.

McRaven also released a statement regarding Trump’s ban.

“In today’s world, our faculty, staff and students need to travel abroad to advance our missions of research, teaching and patient care,” McRaven wrote in his Jan. 31 statement. “So when members of our community must travel, we want them to return to the U.S. safely. We are and will remain committed to that principle, and to them.”

The chancellor said the UT System administration in Austin is ready to help its institutions and their travelers.

“We do have a voice here on campus and I hope we make it heard,” Syed said. “Letting our students know, you know, that we won’t stand for this and I hope that the student body also comes together with us. ... This executive order really has separated families. I’ve heard many stories about families not being able to commute with their sons, about being detained and I hope the government fixes this issue soon.”

--Lesley Robles contributed to this report.



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Ballet Folklórico: showcase of Mexican culture and beauty

Rebeca Ortiz
SPANISH EDITOR

The nationally recognized Ballet Folklórico of UTRGV will have an open rehearsal for its annual dance series, “Alegría 2017,” at 7:30 tonight in the Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg.

Performances will continue Friday, Saturday and Feb. 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m., with 2 p.m. matinees Sunday and Feb. 19. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students, and \$8 for children.

Shows for high schools and below will take place at 10 a.m. Friday and Feb. 17. Tickets are \$5 with reservation required by calling 665-2230.

The ballet, which was founded in 1970, has since collaborated in the production of concerts, ballets and musicals with the UTRGV Theatre, the UTRGV Music Department and the Valley Symphony Orchestra and has performed across the United States, as well as in Canada, France and Italy.

The company has also received national recognition from the American College Dance Association (ACDA), which selected among the best 30 choreographies across the nation to perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., in 2012, 2014 and 2016, the last one accompanied by the other UTRGV award-winning ensemble, Mariachi Aztlán.

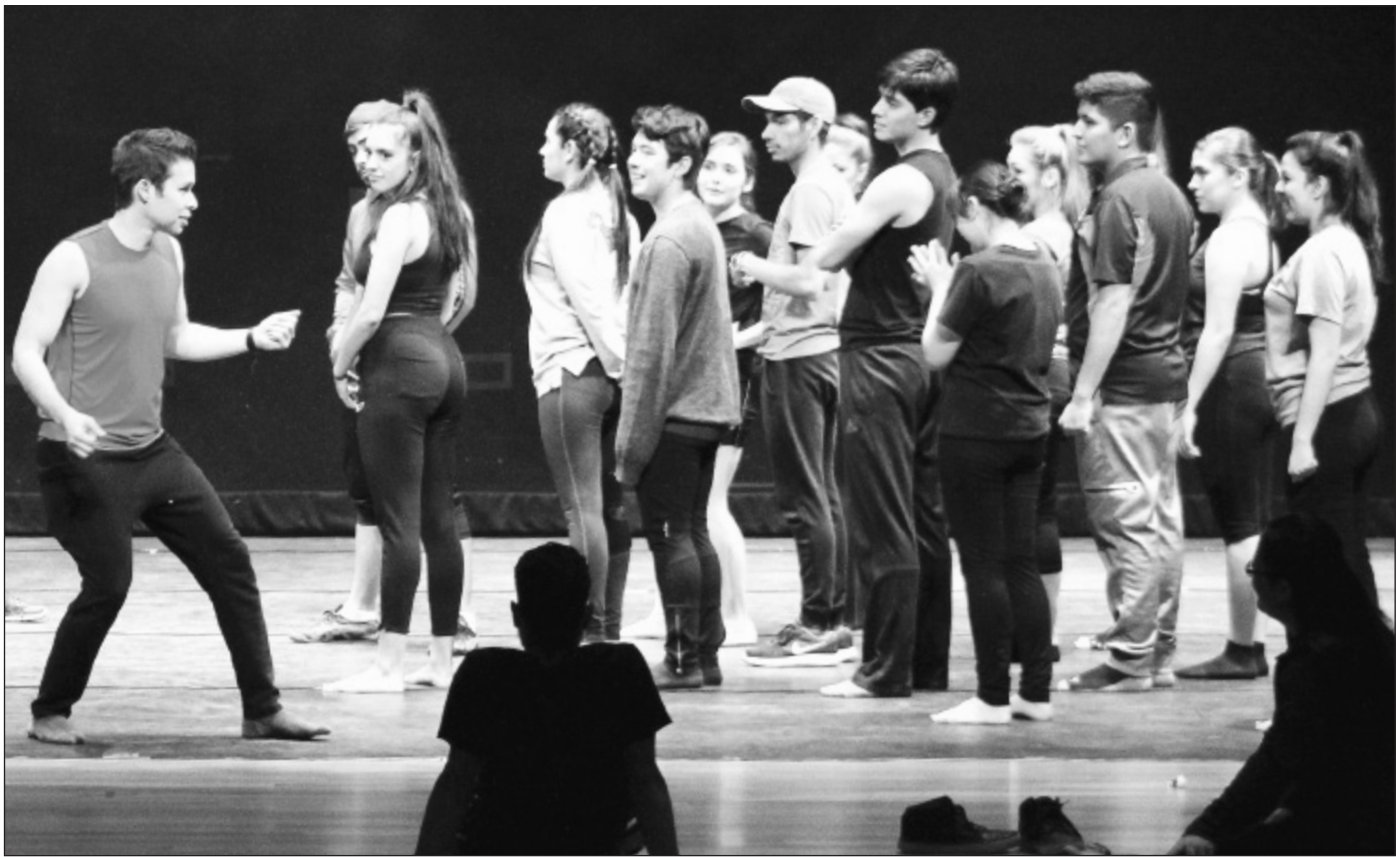
“All these collaborations are always very important for the growth of our students. ... All these experiences of working with the Symphonic, of working with recognized artists, with other class of artists, it’s something that helps open up the mind to create new things, and that’s what we want. We want to educate our students to be successful professionals,” said Miguel Angel Peña, artistic director of Ballet Folklórico.

“Alegría 2017” will be accompanied by the music of Mariachi Aztlán. The two-hour production is divided into seven sections and features 36 dancers and 15 musicians.

The sections consist of the traditional dances of the Mexican states of Campeche, Tamaulipas, Oaxaca, Jalisco and Veracruz. The last two sections will highlight contemporary Mexican folkdances.

Choreography is enhanced by the corresponding costume, makeup, lighting and music.

Uriel Góngora, a pre-med biology senior and member of the dance group,



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER

Ballet Folklórico Artistic Director Miguel Peña (left) gives dancers instructions for their upcoming show “Alegría” in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg. The general performance will be at 2 p.m. Sunday and Feb. 19 and at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Feb. 17 and 18.



Members of Ballet Folklórico rehearse Jan. 30 for their upcoming show “Alegría” in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg. The general performance will be at 2 p.m. Sunday and Feb. 19 and at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Feb. 17 and 18.

said his favorite regional piece is “Santa Catarina Juquila,” from the state of Oaxaca.” During the dance, they mock the cultural stereotype of men being machos and *mujeriegos* (womanizers), and women going after the best bet.

“So we dance and at the same time we have fun,” Góngora said.

Peña said: “We try to expose to the public the traditions and culture of Mexico.”

He said the folkloric ballet is “a very pretty and cheerful way to remember and help maintain the traditions and culture of our Mexico here in the United States.”

Besides Peña, Ballet Folklórico UTRGV is under the direction of Program Director Francisco Muñoz and Production Manager Zeidy Garza.

Garza said students interested in joining the dance group must enroll in one of three folklórico classes offered every semester and make their way to the ballet after completing the advanced class (Folklórico III).

Additionally, auditions will be conducted the last week April for prospective ballet or class members.

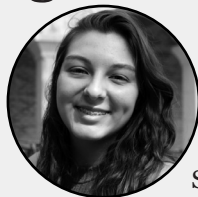
Campus Q&A

What music are you listening to in your headphones?



“My preferred music is any type of rock that is older than me. It’s the Led Zeppelin, The Beatles, Bon Jovi, Van Halen, Guns N’ Roses, anything that is older than 21 I enjoy. I was both raised on it and I compare a lot of that music to the mainstream music that we hear now on the radio. To me, in comparison, the old music is always better.”

Alexander Barron
Mass communication junior



“I was listening to Shakira, ‘Chantaje’ by Maluma featuring Shakira, one of my favorites now.”

Claudia Gonzalez
Biomedical sciences sophomore



“I am listening to Corey Harper. The song is ‘I’m on Fire.’ I am just listening to several songs by him. It kind of sounds like John Mayer, so I just thought it was pretty cool to listen to him.”

Michael Hernandez
English sophomore



“I’m kinda listening to a little bit of everything here and there, but I kinda went back to my jazzy roots. I really like Hiatus Kaiyote. They’re an Australian-based band, in Melbourne, and their music is so, I don’t know. I love it, kind of jazzy and groovy. I also listen to a little bit of indie music so, like, Grouplove, Neon Indian, Cage the Elephant. A little bit of indie and jazz is what I’m listening to.”

Illiana Luna
Mass communication sophomore



“I was listening to ‘Enchanted’ by Taylor Swift. I’ve been a fan since I was, like, in elementary.”

Jose Montemayor
Biomedical sciences freshman

--Compiled by Ana Cahuiche and Gabriel Mata

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