

# THE RIDER

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017

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VOL. 2, ISSUE 19

## UTRGV waives fee by mistake Tells 329 biomed students to pay \$700

**Monika Garza**  
THE RIDER

Traditional and hybrid biomedical sciences students were hit with a \$700 bill last month because the university waived a fee it should not have, UTRGV officials say.

In Fall 2016, UTRGV Student Accounting Services applied a \$350 waiver by mistake to all biomedical sciences students, including hybrid and traditional. They are being charged an additional \$350 for the Spring 2017 semester, for a total bill of \$700, said Patrick Gonzales, associate vice president for University Marketing and Communications.

However, Saraswathy Nair, a UTRGV associate professor and chair of the Health and Biomedical Sciences Department, said at least one student was affected in the Fall 2015 semester.

“What eventually happened at student accounting, or student billing, is that starting in Fall 2015, they put a mistaken credit for the biomedical program fee for, I believe, all students, whether they were traditional or hybrid,” Nair said.

Student Accounting Services is reviewing the accounting error to prevent the situation from happening again, Gonzales said.

“It was our mistake. We

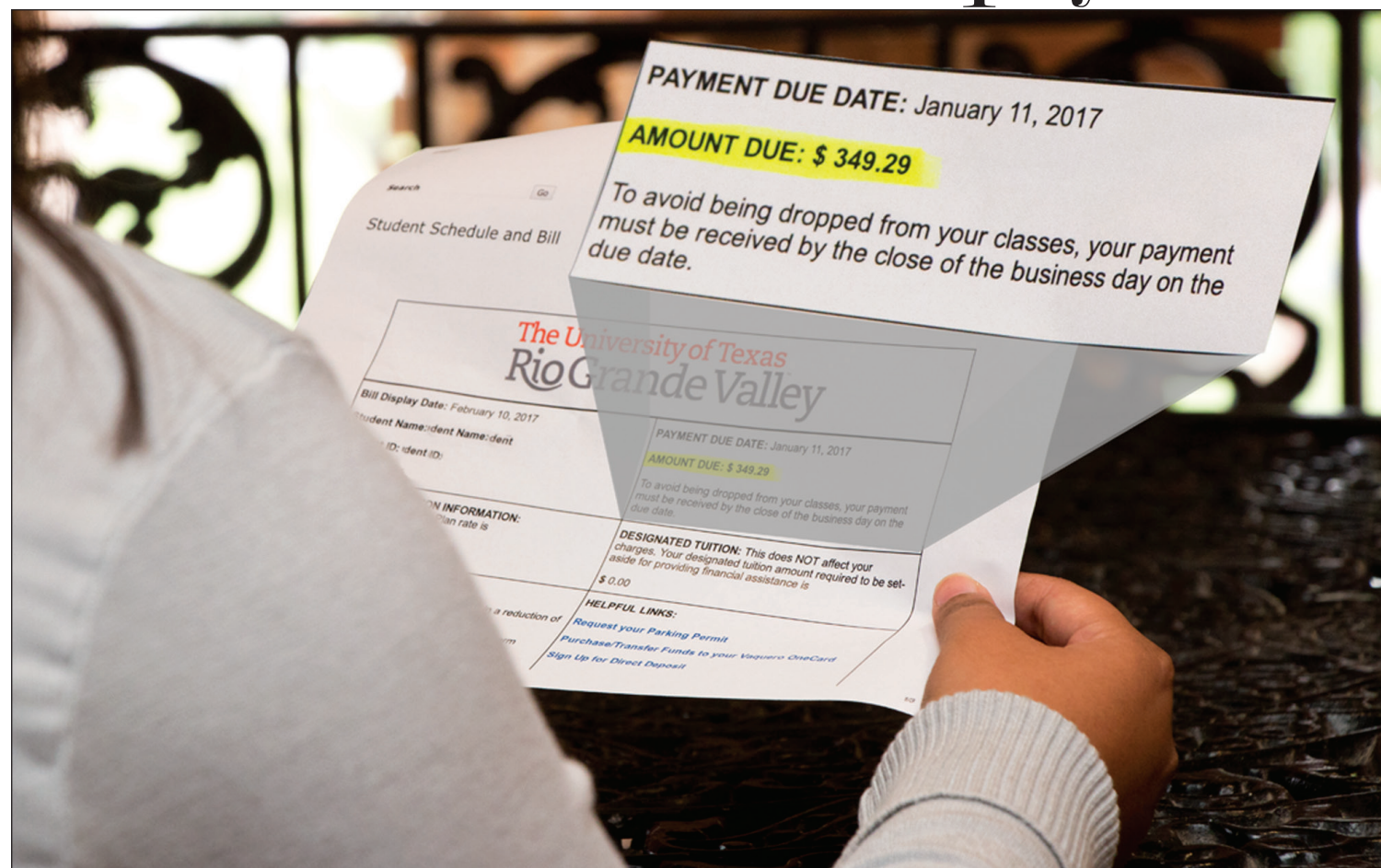


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ANA CAHUICHE

are not hiding that. It was a billing coding issue ... and we apologize to all the students,” Gonzales said. “But, it is still something that we need to correct and we are working with the students to correct

it as soon as possible and we are looking into re-evaluating the process to make sure this type of thing does not happen again.”

Asked how the mistake occurred, Gonzales replied:

“We are still trying to find out. It had something to do with the coding. Everything is done through our computer system and somehow we got the wrong coding that sent the credit to students who were

not supposed to receive it.”

Currently, 329 biomedical students are being charged the fee. Of these, 105 are traditional students and 224

See **BIOMED**, Page 12

## For Laverne Cox, ‘it’s all good’

**Gabriel Mata**  
THE RIDER

The LGBTQ+ community is in a seemingly never-ending battle with society and the government, fighting for their human rights to be respected. Actress, activist and transgender icon Laverne Cox visited the university last Wednesday to speak on these issues.

Counseling Specialist Chase Garza and nursing student Cornelius Sublette introduced Cox, while the audience of more than 1,000 people stood up to cheer.

Due to the Performing Arts Complex having only a 1,000-seat capacity, students who could not be seated were in the lobby of the building watching her speech on televisions.

After her round of thank yous to the students and staff who helped put together the event, she started another round of applause with: “I stand before you this evening a proud, African-American, transgender woman.”

The homicide rate in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning community is highest among trans-women. More than 50 percent of all LGBTQ homicides are trans-women, most of them of color, according to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs.

“Trans people are under attack in this country,” Cox said.

She quoted political activist Cornel West: “Justice is what love looks like in public. That’s good, right?” which led to a list, “Trans and gender non-



Laverne Cox

SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER

conforming people could use some justice, some love to take. Poor and working people could use some justice, some love to take. People of color could use some justice, immigrants could use some justice.”

The last two of the list brought up another roar of applause.

“Women and people with disabilities could use some justice, and ain’t I a woman?” Cox said.

She spoke mostly of her experiences

growing up, as a child being bullied by fellow students for not conforming to the gender norm, by acting like a girl.

“Whatever that means, because girls act all sorts of ways,” Cox said.

A therapist asked Cox whether she knew the difference between a boy and a girl.

“In my infinite wisdom as a third-grader, I said there is no difference,” Cox said.

That statement was followed by another round of applause.

Through her experiences, she was able to touch on things that trans people go through daily, giving advice on how to get through such experiences, or how to overcome the shame someone can feel.

Asked in an interview who her target audience was when coming down to a predominantly Hispanic area, where tradition is tightly knit as well as religion, Cox replied: “Anyone who wants to hear what I have to say, honest. If folks have decided to come out to hear me speak, there’s something about me that has brought them here. I come here with a lot: I’m an actress, I’m a woman, I’m trans, I’m black, I’m from the South as well, I was raised Christian.

“I come with my story, my message is my story, and so that’s really what I share. I share what I’ve learned, some perspectives I’ve picked up along the way. That’s what I want to share and, hopefully, that’ll inspire someone to

See **COX**, Page 12



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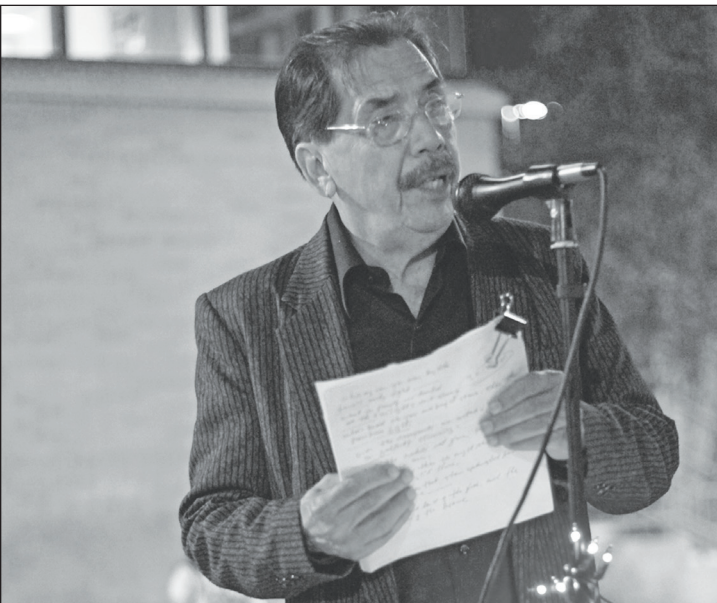


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# Honoring the past, celebrating the present



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Sociology and anthropology Lecturer Jose Villarreal speaks about the history and oppression the African-American community has endured during the “Talk about it S’more” event last Tuesday at the University Center Circle on the Edinburg campus.

## Macarena Martinez

THE RIDER

This month, UTRGV joins the rest of the nation in the celebration of Black History Month with a series of events focusing on the achievements of African Americans.

“Any campus in the country, including ours, should celebrate what African Americans have done for not only U.S. history, but for a lot of the movements [like the] civil rights movements ... that the Hispanic population benefit from,” said Manuel Medrano, a professor emeritus in the History Department.

Carter G. Woodson, an alumnus of the University of

Chicago, traveled to Chicago in the summer of 1915 to participate in the national celebration of the 50th anniversary of emancipation. Thousands of African Americans attended the event to see exhibits of “the progress their people had made since the destruction of slavery,” according to the website of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (asah.org).

Woodson decided to form an organization to promote the scientific study of black life and history. He also urged some of his fraternity brothers at Omega Psi Phi at the U. of C. to take on the project. They created Negro

History and Literature Week, which was later renamed Negro Achievement Week, the website states.

“We are going back to that beautiful history and it is going to inspire us to greater achievements,” he told students at the Hampton Institute in 1924.

In February 1926, Woodson issued a press release announcing Negro History Week. February was selected because two Americans who were born in that month played an important role in black history, Medrano said.

President Abraham Lincoln was born on Feb. 12 and Frederick Douglass on the 14th. Lincoln was the first president to propose emancipation of slaves. Douglass was a former slave who became an anti-slavery activist, author and speaker.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized the expansion of Black History Week into Black History Month.

“This country is like a *colcha*, like a quilt of many racial groups, ethnic groups, religious groups and instead of looking at what they take from the country, I look at it in terms of what they give to the country,” Medrano said.

He said that for a long time U.S. history books have been exclusive about ethnic history.

“You have to find out about Mexican-American history, most of the time, in Mexican-American history courses, or African American history courses for African American history,” he said. “And, if

it’s part of a national history repertoire, then we should include it in the national history that we celebrate across the country.”

For students interested in learning more about black history, Student Involvement planned several events.

Last Tuesday, Lecturer Jose M. Villarreal spoke about the Civil Rights Movement and the movie “Southside with You” was screened last Thursday.

“We really try to provide programming that will provide educational components to the students,” said Raul Leal, program coordinator for leadership and social change.

On Feb. 21, the “Let’s Talk About it S’more: Cultural Chat” will take place at the Ballroom from 7 to 9 p.m. on the Edinburg campus. Local activist David Mitchell will perform music and a presentation of his admiration of African American culture.

On Feb. 23, the movie “Loving” will be screened from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Plains Capital El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus and at the same time in the Plains Capital Student Union Theater on the Edinburg campus. The movie portrays the many obstacles faced by Richard and Mildred Loving, an interracial couple, who were arrested for marrying.

For more information or special accommodations, please call the Student Involvement on the Brownsville campus at 882-5111 and on the Edinburg campus at 665-2660.

# Bricks and mortar

## Another engineering building going up

### Marie Vallangca

THE RIDER

Fences covered with tarp were put up three weeks ago to prepare for construction of the new Interdisciplinary Engineering and Academic Studies building on the Edinburg campus.

The Physical Science West building will be demolished to make way for the new building.

“The fencing that has been installed around the existing Physical Science West building and part of the Quad defines the construction perimeter for the new building because the contractor needs space to stage/store materials all around the site,” said Marta Salinas-Hovar, UTRGV associate vice president of Facilities Planning and Operations. “Additionally, the contractor will begin the temporary sidewalk between the library and the Student Union this Friday, Feb. 10.”

Construction is expected to start March 30 and end Jan. 9, 2019. The cost of the project is \$35.6 million, of which \$30.6 million is funded by Tuition Revenue Bonds and \$5 million by the Permanent University Fund.

According to the project fact sheet, an interdisciplinary space of about 53,398 gross square footage is necessary on the Edinburg campus to support the enrollment growth. The new building will be a three-story facility with the same master plan consistent with the campus brick and vernacular inspired by the architecture of Louis Khan. The new building will include six engineering teaching labs, two discipline-specific computer labs, eight 60-seat general classrooms, offices and support spaces.

Although the new building is mainly for engineering students, the facility will also address flexible space requirements for other disciplines.

“The new building will house a number of our departments,” said Alexander Domijan, UTRGV dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science. “The specific departments have not been determined yet. But the building will have a great impact on our ability to expand on most of our department. I don’t expect every program to be housed in the new building because we have three buildings on this campus and so some of them will be housed in one building and some will be housed maybe in multiple buildings because we’re moving possibly towards the strategy of mixing different disciplines together, and that promotes more collaborative environments.”

According to Domijan, the location of the new Interdisciplinary Engineering and Academic Studies building is ideal because it is relatively close to the main engineering building. A couple of innovative academic efforts are still being planned but Domijan can already envision the expansion of

# Tax return 101 Program helps students file for free

## Bryan Ramos

NEWS EDITOR

Tax season is upon us and UTRGV is doing its part to make filing for students an easy process.

Students seeking assistance to prepare their tax return can find help right on campus thanks to the UTRGV Financial Aid Office and the United Way, which partnered to offer the myfreetaxes.com service. This is the second year UTRGV offers this opportunity to its students for free.

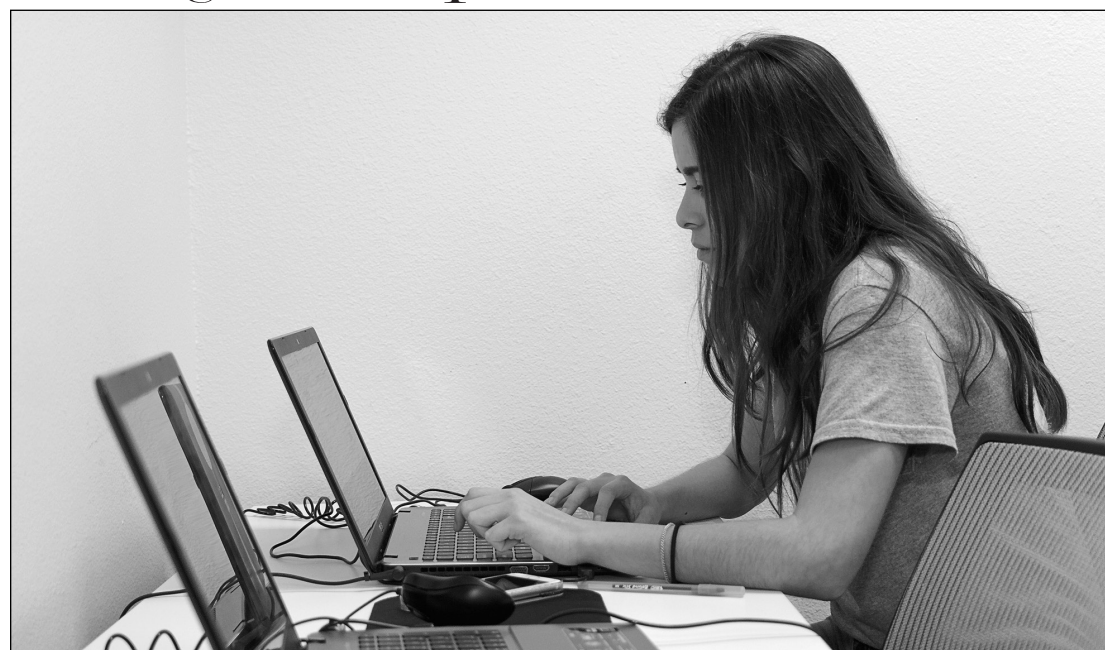
If you earn under \$64,000, you can prepare your taxes for free in two ways: in person, where a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance-certified United Way tax professional can assist you; or on your own at home by using myfreetaxes.com’s self-guided step-by-step website and receive assistance by calling 1-855-698-9345.

Jael Garcia, associate director of Financial Aid Operations and community liaison, said helping students file their tax return is to ease the process.

“We know that a lot of the times, especially students, that this is the first time they’re going to do their taxes,” Garcia said. “They don’t know where to do them, they don’t know how to do them. It makes it very easy for anybody that is maybe afraid of taking it on and doing their taxes. The ones that have taken advantage of the service are very happy that it’s being offered.”

Michael Ortega, a mass communication junior, said UTRGV offering tax return assistance is a good thing.

“It’s good to know that the university gives this help



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Exercise science senior Marcela Martinez fills in her tax information in a U Central computer last Thursday in the Main building on the Brownsville campus.

because taxes can be stressful if you don’t know what to do,” Ortega said.

Many college students will be first-time filers and are encouraged to file their tax return before completing their FAFSA. Garcia said one of the reasons the university started this was to not only help students file their tax return but also to speed up the financial aid application process.

“One of the reasons this came about was because for financial aid applications, [tax returns] are needed,” Garcia said. “Students or parents needed to complete their [returns] in order to complete the financial aid application. That’s why when this opportunity came, we saw it as a logical thing; that way, students have a way to easily and freely complete their [tax

returns]. Then they can do their financial aid application on time.”

Maria De Leon, a VITA site coordinator with the Untied Way of South Texas who is helping students on the Edinburg campus, said students should make sure to bring the required forms with them if seeking assistance.

“I’m here to help with any questions in regards to tax preparation,” De Leon said. “We have a list of items that they have to bring and if they bring all their documents ... the process can be very quick and easy.”

To receive step-by-step help in person, bring:

- your Social Security or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)
- a valid email address
- W-2, 1099 and other income forms

- last year’s tax return
- health insurance information for all household members or Form 1095
- your bank routing and account numbers
- and college 1098-T.

Tax return assistance is available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday until March 3 on the Edinburg campus in the Student Services Building (ESSBL 1.197) and on the Brownsville campus in Main 2.503. The deadline to file a return is April 18.

For more information on student health plans, visit [utrgv.myahpcare.com](http://utrgv.myahpcare.com) or UTRGV Student Health Services at 613 N. Sugar Rd. in Edinburg or Cortez Hall 237 in Brownsville.

Individuals requiring special accommodations may email [finaid@utrgv.edu](mailto:finaid@utrgv.edu).



THE  
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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

Blood Drive

**Psi Chi Honor Society** will host a blood drive in coordination with McAllen’s **United Blood Services** from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the University Center Ballroom in Edinburg. For more information, email andy.torres01@utrgv.edu.

Valentines Promo Week

The **Treble Thrivers** will promote its Valentine song-a-grams from noon to 1:30 p.m. today through Wednesday in the Student Union Café in Edinburg. For more information, email dianne.dublado01@utrgv.edu.

Night Chess

The **Chess Club** invites all students to learn and play chess from 4:30 to 11 p.m. Monday at STAC 1.102 in Edinburg and from 4:30 to 11 p.m. Friday in Sabal Hall in Brownsville. For more information, email david.ortiz02@utrgv.edu.

Trio Aegina

**Trio Aegina** will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. The concert will explore the sounds of love and passion with works by **Fanny Mendelssohn, Johannes Brahms** and **Astor Piazzolla**. Tickets (\$10 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and students with ID) can be purchased at http://patron.utrgv.edu or at the door. For more information, call 665-3881 or email patron@utrgv.edu.

Tuesday

Beethoven and Schumann

Baritone **Daniel Hunter-Holly** and pianist **Kenneth Saxon** will perform at 7:30 p.m. in a concert titled “**A Secret Tone: Music of Beethoven and Schumann.**” Hunter-Holly and Saxon are UTRGV associate professors of music. The concert will take place in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center. Tickets (\$10 for adults and \$5 for students with ID and senior citizens) can be purchased at http://patron.utrgv.edu or at the door. For more information, call 665-3881 or email patron@utrgv.edu.

22 Push-ups

**Student Veterans of America** will host a 22 push-up event to help inform students and others about veterans who deal with post-traumatic stress disorder and awareness of the number of suicides committed by veterans every month. The event is from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Student Union in Edinburg. For more information, email patrick.roberts01@utrgv.edu.

Magic tournament

The **Student Union** invites students to compete in a tournament of the popular card game and win V-Bucks from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Student Union game room in Edinburg. For more information, call 665-7989.

UTRGV Donor Day

UTRGV’s **Advancement Services** will host “**Love Our Donor Day**” from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Chapel lawn in Edinburg and Thursday on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville.

Students, faculty and staff will have the opportunity to show their gratitude by writing thank-you notes, creating posters and participating in producing videos that will be shared with the university’s donors. For more information, call 665-3793 or email deanna.garza@utrgv.edu.

Say Yes to Safe Sex

**Delta Tau Lambda** will distribute information on safe sex as well as free condoms from 3 to 4:15 p.m. at the Library Courtyard in Edinburg. For more information, email alexandria.dyck01@utrgv.edu.

Wednesday

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.

Diabetes presentation

The **Diabetic Sponsors** will give a presentation on how to prevent diabetes from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Student Union Palmetto Room in Edinburg. For more information, email monica.rodriguez01@utrgv.edu.

‘Fantastic Beasts’ movie

The **Student Union** will show the movie “**Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them**” at 7 p.m. in the Student Union Theater in Edinburg and Thursday on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville. For more information, call 665-7991 for Edinburg or 882-5111 for Brownsville.

Trumpet-piano concert

Trumpeter **Matthew Ernst** and his wife, **Janna Ernst**, a pianist, will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. Matthew Ernst is the principal trumpet for the **Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra**. For more information, call 882-7025.

Service Fair

The **Engagement Zone** invites students to meet with representatives from nonprofit agencies 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.

Friday

Town Hall meeting

The **City of Brownsville** will host a **Community Night Town Hall** from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday in the PlainsCapital Bank Gran Salón on the UTRGV campus. City Commissioners **Deborah Portillo** (District 3) and **John Villarreal** (District 4) will attend the meeting and encourage residents to participate. Residents may submit up to two questions and/or concerns regarding any topic. An online form is available at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HSK62GV.

ASL Game Night

The **Deaf Rehab Club** will host a game night to help students relieve stress from college. The event will be from 5 to 10 p.m. at the Community Engagement

and Student Success Building in Edinburg. For more information, email amanda.a.garces01@utrgv.edu.

Saturday

La Raza Car Show

**Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity Inc.** will present “**La Raza Car Show**” from noon to 5 p.m. in parking Lot G-3 in Edinburg. The event will include contests for Best Car, Best Classic, Lowrider, Truck Wild, Truck Mild and more. For more information, email lawrenceearl.pabalinas01@utrgv.edu.

Food Sales

BBQ chicken

The **Clinical Lab Science Student Organization** will sell barbecue chicken plates from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Saturday in Lot E9 in Edinburg. Each plate consists of two chicken quarter legs, rice, beans, bread, jalapeño and utensils. For more information, email reba.rivera01@utrgv.edu.

Chicken

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.

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.

Mexican food

The **International Student Organization** will sell plates of Mexican food from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville. For more information, email aldo.banuelos01@utrgv.edu.

Vegan Chili and Juice

The **Environmental Awareness Club** will sell vegan chili and juice from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday at the Student Union in Edinburg. For more information, email julissa.romano1@utrgv.edu.

Valentine’s gifts

The **Association of Information Technology Professionals** will sell chocolate-covered food and puffed rice-and-marshmallow treats from noon to 1:15 p.m. Tuesday at the College of Business and Entrepreneurship in Edinburg. For more information, call 821-2580 or email jose.c.gonzalez01@utrgv.edu.

Medical Brigades Brownsville

will set up a Polaroid picture booth that will have a Valentine’s theme and also sell cupcakes and chocolates from noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Main Courtyard in Brownsville. For more information, call 388-0443 or email nitchelle.rodriguez01@utrgv.edu.

**Operation Smile Club** will sell Valentine’s-themed pastries and crafts from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Student Union East Patio A in Edinburg. For more information, email lesley.robles01@utrgv.edu.

--Compiled by Marie Vallangca

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Feb. 1 and 6.



Feb. 1

**2:50 p.m.:** A student reported his wallet was stolen from the Math General Classroom Building on the Edinburg campus. It contained debit cards and his personal identification documents.

**6:04 p.m.:** A student’s vehicle was struck by another vehicle while it was parked in the B-1 parking lot on the Brownsville campus. The student at fault left contact information on the parked vehicle’s windshield and left the area. No injuries were reported.

**9:05 p.m.:** A public safety officer found graffiti on the metal box that houses the controls for the lights on

the soccer field on the Brownsville campus.

Feb. 2

**8:16 p.m.:** A student sprained his ankle while playing basketball at the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus. He refused medical attention.

Feb. 3

**2:30 p.m.:** A student reported his vehicle was damaged while it was parked in Lot E26 on the Edinburg campus. Video footage showed that the damage was not made while the vehicle was parked on campus.

Feb. 6

**9:49 a.m.:** A student reported losing her wallet on the UTRGV shuttle bus between the Edinburg and the

Brownsville campuses. The wallet was later turned in to the UTRGV Police Department.

**12 p.m.:** A two-vehicle collision involving a UTRGV student and a Texas Southmost College student occurred in parking Lot B2 on the Brownsville campus. Both vehicles sustained damage, but the students were not injured.

**11:48 a.m.:** A student reported that his laptop computer was stolen at Sabal Hall on the Brownsville campus.

**5:19 p.m.:** A staff member injured his right index finger while removing a wheel lock from his vehicle in parking Lot E10 on the Edinburg campus.

--Compiled by Macarena Martinez



# Looking for a job?

**Macarena Martinez**  
THE RIDER

After graduation, finding the right company for employment is not easy. Every company has its own requirements.

“The hard part is getting hired, especially because I’m a Mexican citizen. ... You are required [to have] a work visa,” said Mauricio Salazar, who graduated from UTRGV last fall with a bachelor’s degree in engineering physics.

Salazar said it is hard to find an engineering job in the Rio Grande Valley.

“There’s not that many engineering [jobs],” he said.

“I think there’s only, like, maybe one or two or three at the most and the rest have been in, like, Austin or San Antonio or Houston.”

Among the companies and firms hiring now is Tostado Law Firm PLLC.

“We usually ask for a résumé, if they have any experience or why they want to be in a law firm, [and] what their career path is,” said Paola Tostado, lead attorney for the law firm.

The law firm hires paralegals who are willing to learn and adapt to any job given.

As reported in the second part of this series, “Résumé + cover letter = interview,” a résumé is an essential tool when applying for a job, and employers use it to determine whether to interview the applicant.

“It’s very important because, sometimes, I’m not the one receiving the

résumés. ... That’s how they present themselves to me. So, if I see something sloppy, or something misspelled, then I see that this person is not interested,” Tostado said.

A résumé is a representation of yourself and by having a good résumé, employers are going to know that you are involved and that you have had experience in other jobs, said Alda Jimenez, a freshman majoring in bilingual education.

For students seeking a career in health care, most of the requirements for

employment at hospitals are different and some may require

experience.

“We have a lot of nursing positions. ... They are looking for a registered nurse. It doesn’t always have to be an individual who has experience, it can be an individual who has just completed the program and is looking into getting into our health care system,” said Anabel Arellano, recruiting manager at Doctors Hospital at Renaissance in Edinburg.

The hospital also has positions available in administration and marketing. All positions available can be found at [www.dhr-rgv.com](http://www.dhr-rgv.com).

“We are always ... willing to work with new students who are in the process of finishing their careers,” Arellano said.

Tostado Law Firm PLLC and Doctors Hospital at Renaissance offer internships and job shadowing for students looking to gain experience.

“We look for, if they’re



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Selena Cavazos (left) and Lupita Martinez, nurses at Doctors Hospital at Renaissance Emergency Room in Edinburg, modify orders for a patient’s medication last Thursday. The hospital is hiring nurses and has positions available in administration and marketing.

presentable, if they’re interested in the job and if they’re honest, No. 1, and responsible,” Tostado said.

The hospital is looking for similar qualities in their prospective employees.

“We are always looking for individuals who are enthusiastic, who have good bedside manner, who want to learn different tasks, who, of course, have the background and the education but who also have the will to move forward with the organization and take care of our community,”

Arellano said.

Arturo Castro, internet sales manager at Charlie Clark Nissan Brownsville, said the company looks for a candidate who is confident.

Charlie Clark Nissan Brownsville has positions available for salesman and business development center agent. In addition to sales, the agent is responsible for customer service follow-ups, sales calls and scheduling internet appointments, Castro said.

A salesman’s schedule at

the dealership includes 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Other employees work from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or noon to 9 p.m., Castro said.

The Tostado Law Firm is located at 1244 International Blvd. in Brownsville and can be reached at 548-8888.

Doctors Hospital at Renaissance is located at 5501 S. McColl Rd. in Edinburg and can be reached at 362-8677.

Charlie Clark Nissan is located at 2547 N. Expy. in Brownsville and can be reached at 214-2530.

## Study: future ecological changes in the Gulf UTRGV, USGS researchers say climate to affect coastal wetlands

**Monika Garcia**  
THE RIDER

Climate change will affect the coastal wetlands of the northern Gulf of Mexico this century, according to a study conducted by a UTRGV assistant professor and researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey.

“The two key changes that are going to happen are a change from grassy marshes to mangrove forests, and that is going to change in areas that have decent amount of rainfall and are getting warmer. ... The other big change is transition from basically more plants to fewer plants,” said Christopher Gabler, an assistant professor in the School of Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences.

Michael Osland, a USGS research ecologist in Lafayette, La., is one of the authors of the study.

“So, what happens in those dry areas is that there is not much rainfall and not much fresh water,” Osland said. “So, the salts that are in the ocean water ... that ocean water comes in to these wetlands and the water evaporates and the salts accumulate ... until the area becomes so salty that plants cannot survive there, so we call that hyper-salting conditions.”

The paper, “Macroclimatic change expected to transform coastal wetland ecosystems this century,” was published Jan. 23 on [nature.com](http://nature.com) and in the February issue of *Nature Climate Change*.

“Macro is a way of highlighting that these are changes at a large scale. ... Macro is just to say that these changes are occurring at a big scale,” Osland



COURTESY PHOTO

Coastal wetlands at Port Fourchon, La., were part of the research that UTRGV and USGS researchers conducted on climate change in the northern Gulf of Mexico.

said. “[The Laguna Madre] wetlands are really important, globally, and really unique. The study focuses on coastal wetlands and, globally, coastal wetlands are one of the most valuable ecosystems. They provide a lot of benefits to people.”

Gabler cited the benefits.

“So, for example, they protect us from storms and from floods, they purify water pollution, they prevent coastal erosion and they support strong fishery from the wildlife,” he said.

The research cost about \$200,000 and was funded by grants.

“I think it is fair to say that this experiment cost about \$200,000 ... and that is not counting sort of the costs associated with all of the salaries that the people that worked on it,” Gabler said.

Besides Gabler and Osland, authors of the study are USGS research ecologists James Grace, Richard Day, Camille Stag, Stephen Hartley and Nicholas Enwright.

They started working on the paper in 2013. The fieldwork took a year and a half to be completed.

“It took a year and a half to do the

fieldwork but, the better part of the year [was] to do the analysis and computer modeling and write the paper. Then, it was in review for almost a year,” Gabler said.

The purpose of this study was to establish a link between climate change and the way the coastal wetlands function to predict how they might change in the future, according to Osland.

The possible ecological changes will challenge society in every way, according to Gabler.

“A lot of climate change studies sound like there is no hope. ... Climate change is a very serious threat and is going to have very powerful negative impacts on the world and our economy and our environment, but this study is more, showing more of what is a transitional change,” he said. “... So, even though this transformation is not all bad news, the transformation itself will challenge us as a society. So, we need to keep that in mind and we need to know what is coming and, hopefully, be adaptable and flexible and ready for that change.”

Gabler said he encourages undergraduate science students to get involved in research.

“I think all undergraduates should get involved in research someday. ... Undergraduate research is one of the best things you can do as an undergraduate. It teaches you whether what you think you like about science or anything you really like. So, it will open your eyes to how science really works,” he said.



# 6 | ON CAMPUS

## Elevating spirits



**ANA CAHUICHE**/THE RIDER

Marketing junior Vicente Martinez runs with a kite last Wednesday during the “Kite Flying Day” event on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville. The UTRGV Student Union hosted the event in observance of National Kite Flying Day. Some students decorated their own kites.



**SARAH CARVAJAL**/THE RIDER

Pre-medical biology senior Ana Gomez runs with a kite at the “Kite Flying Day” event last Wednesday on the Edinburg campus.



**MARIO GONZALEZ**/THE RIDER

Physics freshman Mauricio De Leo elevates a kite last Wednesday during “Kite Flying Day” on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville.

## Step into the rhythm



**ANA CAHUICHE**/THE RIDER PHOTOS

UTRGV campus community members practice bachata and salsa moves during “Rhythm Night” last Tuesday in PlainsCapital Bank El Comedor on the Brownsville campus. The UTRGV Student Union hosted a similar event last Thursday on the Edinburg campus.



Math senior Marisol Sanchez and engineering technology graduate Edwin Hernandez dance salsa during “Rhythm Night” last Tuesday in the PlainsCapital Bank El Comedor on the Brownsville campus.



UTRGV philosophy Lecturer Bryan Woodcock (right) teaches attendees how to dance salsa last Tuesday during “Rhythm Night” in PlainsCapital Bank El Comedor on the Brownsville campus. Also shown are Magaly Romero (from left), a dance instructor at Carlotta Petrina Cultural Center, and Manny Coronado, a UTRGV alum and teacher at Coakley Middle School in Harlingen.



# Vaquero Voice

## Valentine's Day



*“Mi opinión sobre el día de San Valentín vendría siendo que no es una buena idea porque es un día que se celebra el amor más que la amistad y debería de celebrarse la amistad primero. El día*

*de San Valentín, cuando tienes un novio o algo, siempre es como que tienes que comprarle algo a fuerzas y se me hace que está mal porque nada más se celebra el amor y el amor no se demuestra con dinero”.*

**Valeria Portillo**  
Estudiante de biomedicina de tercer año

*“Well, if I have a girlfriend, I would like for her to buy me something for Valentine's Day and I would like for her to pay for my semester.”*



**Jonathan Martínez**  
Accounting junior



*“I don't know. I never really celebrated Valentine's Day. I have no problem with it. It just isn't my thing. I think if you're going to get something nice for your partner, you should do it on a day you aren't told to.”*

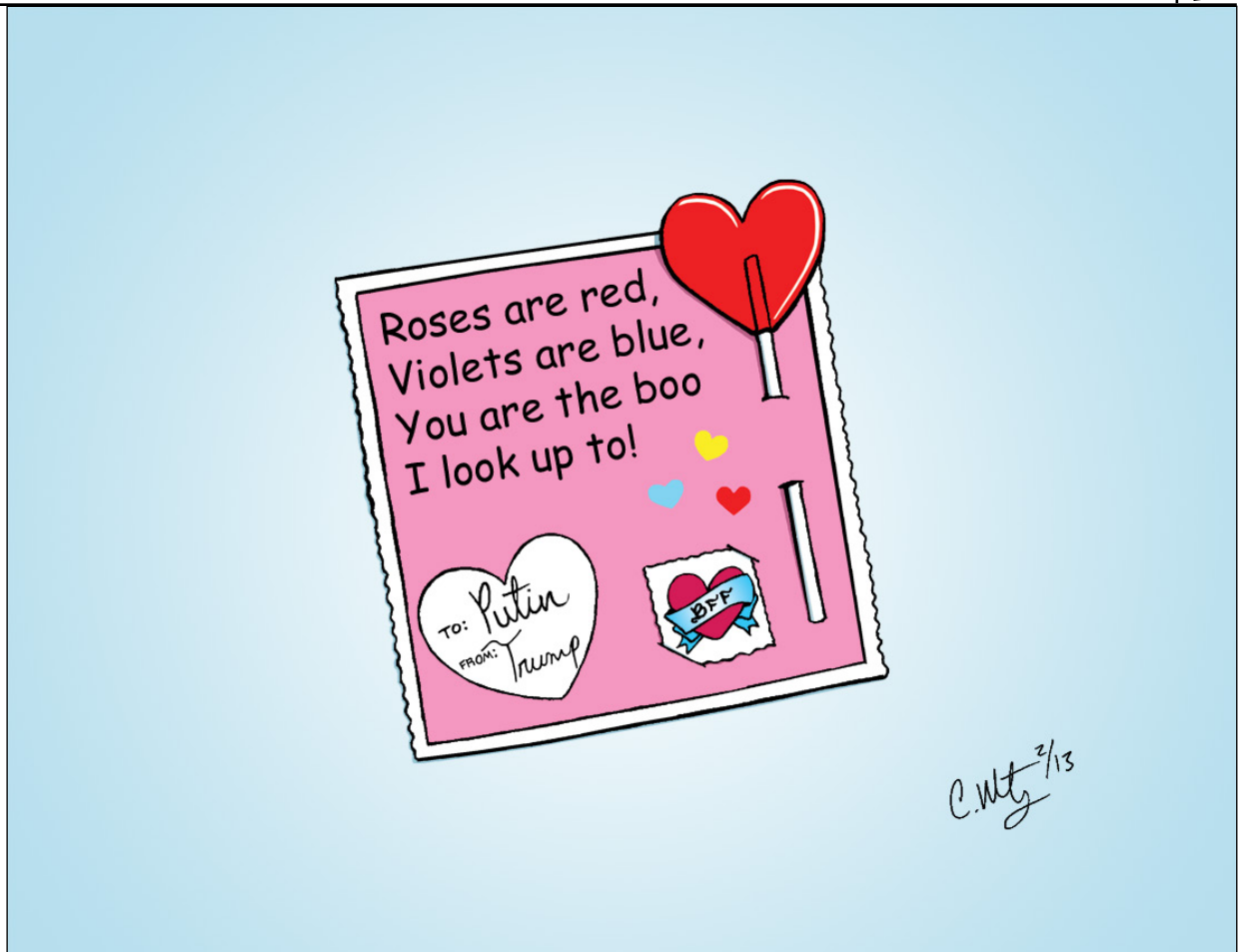
**Arturo Hinojosa**  
Computer engineering junior

*“It's a day where we can show the people we love how we appreciate them. We can do it any day, though. I don't think there needs to be a special day that we can show people how much we love and appreciate them.”*



**Melissa Barrientos**  
Television/film senior

--Compiled by Ana Cahuiche and Gabriel Mata



## What you see is not always what you get



**Marie Vallanca**  
THE RIDER

Psychopath and serial killer. Those are the labels they have given Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte. A lot of Filipinos support the president, but few Filipinos and almost the whole world disagree with his decisions.

The news media worldwide have depicted a monstrous leader who is power hungry and kills for fun. Even some of his supporters on social media are called trolls. Despite the bad publicity he gets from the whole world, the Philippine nation has his back and is ready to fight for its president.

If he is a so-called serial killer and psychopath, why do Filipinos support their president?

The Philippines is a third-world country with about 100 million people, and 83 percent of this population trusts and approves of the president. Although he did not want to run for president, he heard the nation's pleas and complied.

I will try my best to explain to the privileged people of the world why most Filipinos support their president despite what the media and the rest of the world think.

I see Duterte as a father of the country. He is like a parent or guardian who is trying to help his child be a better person.

Let's imagine the Philippines as a teenager who has been involved with drugs for a long time, a completely messed-up child brought up by different guardians.

These guardians have taken advantage of the teenager; they condone the drug use of the teenager secretly and profit from it. After realizing what the guardians were doing, the teenager is now seeking help and wants to change its corrupted ways.

Duterte is a former mayor who served multiple terms and was also a prosecutor of Davao City. The city used to be crawling with crime and drugs, but since his term as its mayor, Davao is now one of the safest places in the Philippines.

“ The city used to be crawling with crime and drugs, but since his term as its mayor, Davao is now one of the safest places in the Philippines. ”

That's because Duterte is strict on following the law. Not only do the residents follow the law, but implement the laws on the tourists, too.

Davao has state-of-the-art hospitals available for everyone, not just those who can't afford it. It is the only place in the Philippines with a 911 emergency

hotline available.

Strict rules regarding attire in the city, littering, traffic, smoking areas, karaoke and curfew are rules that every resident abides by to make the city safe and great.

The former mayor checked whether government employees were doing their job.

One example of this was disguising himself as a motorist and intentionally breaking traffic laws to check if the people on duty were doing their job. Even all the drug addicts in the city have been put in rehab, and their families have been given homes and jobs.

This is what the nation has seen and these are the type of changes they want in the country. This is why most Filipinos trust him, because they are hoping he can change the country the way he changed his city.

## 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](mailto: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.

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# Love tha

*Editor's Note: In observance of Valentine's Day, The Rider asked its readers to share their love with their sweetheart. Reporter Nubia Reyna and Photographer Sarah C...*



## The Deckers

Katherine Decker is an assistant professor of music at UTRGV. She plays and teaches the cello. Her husband, Adam Decker, a lecturer in the same department, plays and teaches the trumpet. They married on Aug. 10, 2013, after two years of dating.

**Where did you meet each other?**

**Adam:** "Grad school in Florida State University."

**How did you start dating?**

**Katherine:** "It's all about the beach for us, I guess. We knew each other for, what, two years? Two years before and our friends had thought we'd make a really good couple but I was very focused on school; I didn't want to date. We, with 14 of our best friends, went to Saint George Island and hung out for a week at a beach house. By the end of the week, I had changed my mind. I thought he was a really nice guy, so fun to hang out with that it just kind of hit me, 'Hey, I wanna date this guy.'"

**Adam:** "It was over the summer, which is important because when we were at school during the school year, we were both graduate students. We were both graduate assistants, so we were teaching for the university as well; there was no time."

**Where did he propose?**

**Adam:** "Saint George Island in Florida."

**Katherine:** "On the beach, under the stars. I didn't expect it that evening. We were down for the celebration of my mother's 68th birthday. His mom, my mom, my brother and the two of us rented a beach house for a weekend."

**Where did you go for your honeymoon?**

**Katherine:** "Our honeymoon was going with nine of our best friends to Chicago for a three-day weekend, going insane and having fun. Great food, great company and a little bit of shopping."

**Adam:** "Spent a bunch of money [on shopping]."

**Katherine (laughing):** "That's what you're supposed to do in your honeymoon, Babe."

**What is it like to work at the same place as your husband/wife?**

**Adam:** "Well, we try and schedule things so that we're not in the same space. I have a little, my own office, which is basically a closet that I can retreat into if I'm just doing work. But when we teach lessons, we do it here. We have to just be smart on how we schedule things. We kind of coordinate our schedules, so that makes it a little more challenging, but we get it done."

**Katherine:** "The back story is that there's not enough space in Eidman [Hall] for us to both have a separate office and since we're married, they thought, 'Oh, we'll just put them in the same place!' which doesn't really work. So, we see each other all the time at home, we see each other all the time here. There's no separate space, which can be hard because there's literally no place for both of us to teach. So he's right, we kind of flip schedules. So we have our own workdays. We say hi to each other in passing, but leave each other alone during the day."

**Which other cities have you visited together?**

**Adam:** "Too many to list."

**Katherine:** "We've traveled half of our country. ... We get around a lot, we are musicians."

The couple has lived in Georgia, Florida and Texas.

**How many children do you have?**

**Katherine:** "We have one. He is 2 years, 3 months [old]. His name is Edward but he goes by Eddie."

**Any pets?**

**Katherine:** "We have a cat. We had a dog, but he passed [away], Mr. Conrad; he was a Hurricane Katrina rescue."

## The A

Tulay Atesin, an assistant professor, and Abdurrahman Atesin, a lecturer, both work in the Department at UTRGV.

**Where did you meet each other?**

**Abdurrahman:** "We met back in Turkey while I was doing undergraduate studies and starting her master's ... but we didn't date until we came to the U.S."

**How did you start dating?**

**Tulay:** "We were working together and I guess we fell in love. It was a situation in a fact that when people date, they go to a reaction and that's sort of like our date, enjoying the moment. We didn't necessarily date in a common sense, but we pretty much did."

**How did he propose?**

**Abdurrahman:** "It was in Turkey. ... We got our relationship decided to make it official."

**Where did you go for your honeymoon?**

**Tulay:** "We did not have one right away. ... We took a vacation to Washington."

**Abdurrahman:** "About a year after, we went to Washington for our honeymoon."

**Which cities have you visited together?**

**Abdurrahman:** "We have been in a couple of cities. We went to Whitewater, Wis.," he said. "My hometown in Cyprus."

**Tulay:** "Washington."

**How many children do you have?**

**Tulay:** "Just one, she is 10 and a half."

**Do you have any pets?**

**Abdurrahman:** "We have a bunny."

**What is it like to work in the same place of work?**

**Abdurrahman:** "It's definitely a different experience."

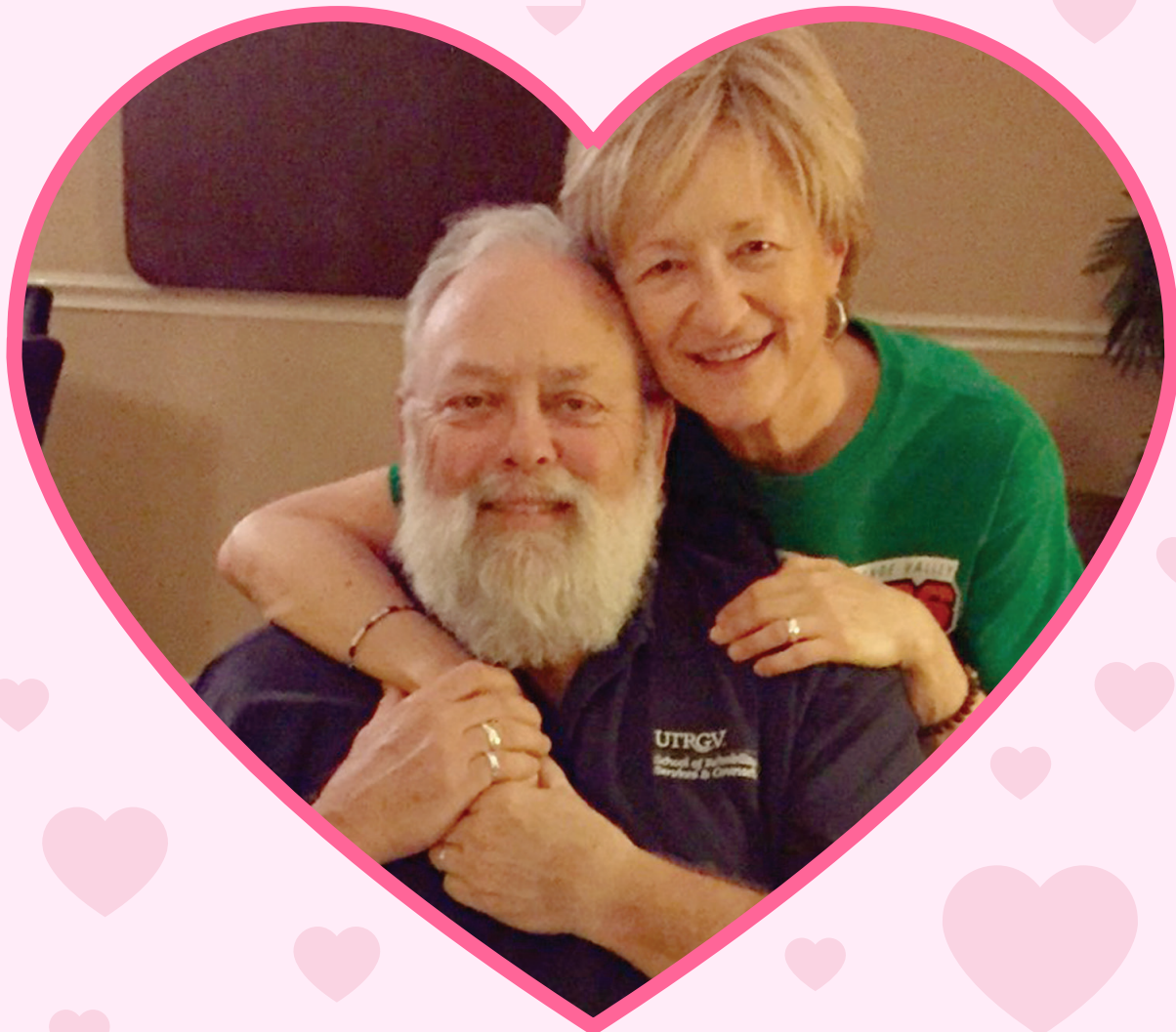
Special  
Messages

*Para Eduardo:  
¡Feliz primer mes! Que tengas un bonito día; te quiero mucho,  
Alondra.*



# t matters

and UTRGV faculty and staff to share the story of how they met their  
Kangaroo interviewed three couples who responded to our request.



## The Reeds

## tesins

ahman Atesin, a lecturer II, work in the Chemistry

... I was doing my Ph.D. ... She was finishing her  
... back in 2000."

... we became best friends and then I made fun of our  
... movies, but we were 'let's go to the lab, and let's do  
... the company and doing things together but we didn't  
... much did everything together."

... acceptances here in the United States and then we

... k a Thanksgiving break for a week."  
... o a cruise in the Caribbean. That was our official

... ties, the Chicago area; in Madison, Wis., and also in  
... and her hometown in Turkey."

**your significant other?**  
... nce because we can help each other quite a bit."

Bruce and Joan Reed are faculty members at UTRGV. Bruce is a professor in Rehabilitation Services and Counseling and Joan is a lecturer III in the University College.

**Where did you meet each other?**

**Bruce:** "We met in Colorado, we were co-workers."

**Joan:** "We were working at a place for adults with developmental disabilities."

**Where did he propose?**

**Bruce:** "We actually proposed at work, we proposed to each other. We were having a chaotic time at work."

**Joan:** "We were on a shift. ... It was a crazy day, the people we were looking after they were all going off and doing crazy things. One of them started pulling somebody's hair, so we had to put him in his room and hold the door shut. [Bruce] was holding someone in the hall and I was holding somebody else. We were standing, kinda waiting for them to calm down and we just said, 'If we can deal with this, marriage is going to be easy and raising kids is going to be a piece of cake, so what do you say?'"

**Where did you get married?**

**Bruce:** "We got married in Glenwood Springs, Colo., Jan. 15, 1987."

**Joan:** "[It is] like a spa town in Colorado. They have the natural spring coming out of the earth."

**Which cities have you visited together?**

**Bruce:** "Oh, my, lots of cities. We have visited lots of countries, we have visited Rome and Florence, and Venice, and Italy, London, Scotland, Hawaii, Alaska, the Caribbean islands, and a lot of cities in the U.S."

**Joan:** "[Florence], that's probably our favorite city in Italy; it's beautiful."

**What is it like to work in the same place of your significant other?**

**Bruce:** "It's wonderful to work at the same place, we understand each other's jobs, we are both professors, we are both department chairs, and so we understand it. We can meet on campus for lunch or for coffee. Sometimes, we walk over to each other's offices to say hi."

**Joan:** "We're both very focused and we both put a high priority on our work."

**Do you have any children?**

**Bruce:** "We have two daughters. ... Our oldest daughter is at grad school and the youngest has just returned to undergraduate school. Both of my daughters grew up being on campus, so it's very natural for them being on campus."

**Anything else you would like to say about your relationship?**

**Joan:** "He is my best friend. I love him very much."

*Para "Kangaroo Cabin":*

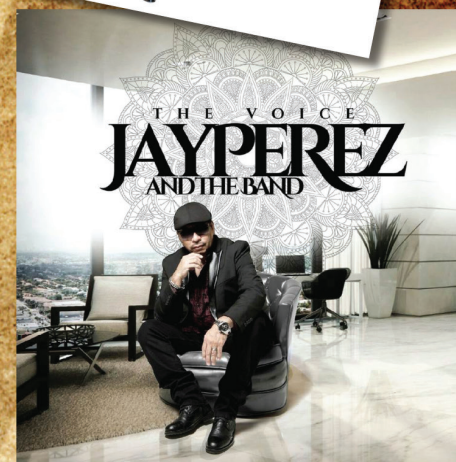
*¡Gracias niñas y parce por ser mis incondicionales! ¡Aprecio muchísimo su amistad y gracias por permitirme ser parte de sus vidas!*





# Sombrero Festival<sup>®</sup> 2017

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## THURSDAY

February 23, 2017  
Gates Open: 1P.M.

Categoría 07: 3:00pm-4:15pm  
Grupo Inevitable: 4:45pm-6:00pm  
Lucky Joe: 6:15pm-8:00pm  
David Marez: 8:30pm-10:00pm  
Intocable: 10:30pm-12:00am

### BIG TENT

Allied Forces: 6:00pm-7:30pm  
Chris Rivera Band: 8:00pm-9:30pm  
M80's: 10:00pm-12:00am

## FRIDAY

February 24, 2017  
Gates Open: 11A.M.

TBA: 11:00am-12:30pm  
J.T. Canales Elementary Conjunto Band:  
1:00pm-2:15pm  
Categoría 07: 2:30pm-3:30pm  
Amos De La Noche: 3:30pm-4:45pm  
Grupo Pokar: 5:00pm-6:30pm  
Los Astros De China: 6:45pm-8:00pm  
Los García Brothers: 8:15pm-9:45pm  
Los Tucanes De Tijuana: 10:00pm-12:00am

### BIG TENT

Kids Sing Off: 11:00am-3:00pm  
Para Niños: 3:00pm-4:00pm  
Tim Gonzalez with Los Bluzanos: 4:00pm-5:30pm  
Clarity: 6:00pm-7:30pm  
Rockstar Denied: 8:00pm-9:30pm  
Chili Cook-Off winners announced: 9:30pm-10pm  
Le Freak: 10:00pm-12:00am

## SATURDAY

February 25, 2017  
Gates Open: 7A.M.

Grito Contest: 5:00pm-6:00pm  
Southern Drawl Band: 6:30pm-8:00pm  
Jay Perez: 8:30pm-10:00pm  
La Mafia: 10:30pm-12:00am

### BIG TENT

Matt & The Herdsmen: 12:00pm-2:00pm  
TBA: 2:30pm-4:00pm  
Lost Puppies: 4:30pm-6:00pm  
Frijolymics winners announced: 6pm-6:30pm  
Beard and Costume Contest: 6:45pm-7:45pm  
Nestor AnDress: 8:00pm-9:30pm  
Metal Shop: 9:45pm-12:00am

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# Día de San Valentín: del amor y consumismo

**Rebeca Ortiz**  
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

Los orígenes exactos de la celebración del día de San Valentín son desconocidos. Una leyenda cuenta que el Emperador romano Claudio II había prohibido casarse a los soldados de su ejército, ya que pensaba que los hombres casados no hacían buenos soldados.

Disconformes con esta decisión del emperador, los soldados acudían a San Valentín para que los casara en secreto. Se dice que después de ser sentenciado a la muerte, parejas jóvenes lo visitaban en su celda llevándole flores y cartas. La leyenda dice que murió el 14 de febrero del año 469 D.C.

La otra, más aceptada creencia establece que ese día marca el inicio de la temporada de apareamiento de las aves, o cuando empiezan a escoger a su pareja.

Por razones comerciales, la mercadotécnica del día festivo inicia después de navidad.

“Es interesante como la mayoría de las personas esperan recibir algo durante el día de San Valentín. La mayoría de las personas espera celebrarlo, sobre todo aquellas personas en una relación”, dijo Amie Bostic, profesora de sociología y antropología de UTRGV.

De acuerdo a La Federación Nacional de Minoristas de los Estados Unidos (NRF, por sus siglas en inglés), los consumidores estadounidenses gastarán \$18.2 billones este San Valentín, con un promedio de \$136.57 por persona. Asimismo, reporta que entre 25 y 34 años son las edades demográficas más probables en participar (64.3 por ciento).

Con respecto al consumismo, Bostic dice dicha festividad depende bastante del género de la persona, pues “los hombres gastan casi el doble que las mujeres durante el día de San Valentín y lo que compran también depende mucho de lo mismo. Los hombres les compran flores a las mujeres, pero las mujeres no les compran flores a los hombres. Las mujeres le compran dulces a los hombres”.

Bostic dijo que el otro aspecto importante asociado con esta diferencia de género en el día de San Valentín y la razón por la que los hombres gastan mucho más es porque hay cierto intercambio social.

“¿Realmente vale la pena gastar \$150 para tener sexo? No. Especialmente cuando carece de verdadero significado”, dijo Bostic. “... Los hombres pueden pensar que el día de San Valentín es estúpido, pero a su vez se dan cuenta de que si no lo celebran con su pareja, o su novia, o la muchacha que les gusta, se va a molestar y va a estar decepcionada por las expectativas de que algo iba a pasar, y él podría perderse de los otros beneficios del día de San Valentín”.

Asimismo, un sacerdote local explicó el lado espiritual de este día.

Juan Pablo de Jesús Dávalos de la parroquia del Señor de la Divina Misericordia en Brownsville, dice que el verdadero significado de este día comienza con “este sentido de poder brindar y atender a la pareja pero con caridad y con amor”.

Dávalos dijo que el comercialismo del día de San Valentín obscurece su verdadero significado.



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/ THE RIDER

Daniel Montes y Dalia Ramírez, estudiantes del último año de matemáticas, se toman de las manos después de comer juntos el pasado martes en la unión estudiantil en el campus de Edinburg. Montes y Ramírez se conocen de años pero recientemente empezaron a salir.

“Ahora en nuestros tiempos, si te fijas a veces es más lo comercial, más lo que hay que comprar, lo que hay que adquirir, pero se olvida el verdadero

sentido que es el respeto que debe de existir en las parejas, el amor por el cual se tiene que seguir luchando, el cual se tiene que seguir cultivando”.

Ingrid de la Torre, estudiante de primer año de enfermería, opina que este es un día “en el que se celebra el amor y no nada más el amor entre una pareja sino también entre los amigos”.

“Es un día en el que expresamos el amor que le tenemos a todos”, dijo de la Torre, agregando que no solo se trata de comprar regalos. “Para mi es celebrar el amor, no nada más de que con las personas que te llevas, sino con

las personas que te encuentras en la calle, con los que no te llevas y así, es demostrar el amor hacia todos”, dijo de la Torre.

Dávalos dijo, “Cada día para mí debe de ser un día de San Valentín. En otras palabras, un día de amor y creo que con eso las parejas serían muy diferentes pero tristemente lo dejan para muy de vez en cuando, una vez al año y entonces pues, el amor, la caridad, el respeto se van resecando, se van marchitando y lamentablemente por eso luego experimentamos tanta división en nuestras parejas”.

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BIOMED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

are hybrid.

Student Accounting Services did not catch the error until Jan. 10, Nair said.

“So, then on that day, I believe [Student Accounting] went back in their accounting system and everywhere they put a minus \$350, they had to correct it,” Nair said.

“But, the problem was [that] all these past semesters, financial aid had paid [student] bills, so now they had underpaid [the fee]. So, now, that balance is showing up. So, it is not that they are mistakenly charged the biomedical program fee, the mistake was that they were mistakenly given a credit for the biomedical program fee. It is an accounting error.”

Nair said students who are not able to pay the fee need to schedule an appointment at the university Bursar’s Office.

Asked if UTRGV will consider forgiving the fee for students, Gonzales replied: “It was not a policy change. It was a mistake from billing and coding. We will correct that.”

Nair said: “If you cannot pay by Fall [2017], please tell [the Bursar’s Office]. What I am asking everybody to do is go to Student Accounting and ask for the detail [of the accounting] line by line so you understand the bill. ... Then, go [to] the Bursar’s Office and come with a payment plan and tell them if you cannot make it by [the] fall semester.”

Gonzales said the university will not generate money from the mistake.

“Students were credited \$350 of the fee and so, their tuition that they paid that year was \$350 less than what they used to pay. So, we are trying to get that \$350 back,” he said. “The university is not making any money on this.”

On Jan. 20, *The Rider* received an anonymous call from a traditional biomedical sciences student complaining about the mistake.

“The issue is that student billing accidentally gave a waiver of \$350 to the traditional students and now they are asking for the students to pay back that \$350 that was taken out of the tuition,” the student said.

The student said students who do not pay for the fee will be blocked from their classes. The deadline for students to pay the fee is Fall 2017.

Students should not be dropped from classes at any point of this semester, Nair said.

“What I know from the administration is that this semester, nobody is going to be dropped for a nonpayment of this [fee]. If anybody is dropped by a mistake in this semester, students know they have to contact me,” she said.

UTRGV College of Health Affairs Dean Michael Lehker said the accounting error has nothing to do with the biomedical program fee which traditional students have previously claimed the university was charging them.

“No one was charged the [biomedical] fee that was a traditional student,” Lehker said. “So, however, what did happen as far as I can discern ... [is] the way it was applied to hybrid students was to give them a credit of \$350 and then charge them \$350 so they would pay \$0. So, for most of the traditional students, only the credit appeared but not the charge. So, they underpaid their tuition of \$350. ... But, again, that really has nothing to do with the student fee for the program fee itself. It was really that [students] have mistakenly received a credit from the university.”

Hybrid biomedical sciences sophomore Claudia Gonzalez said she does not know why the university is charging \$700 a year.

“I do not know why they are charging us in the first place,” she said.

Gonzales said the university is not asking for random money from students.

“We are not charging people just to charge people,” he said. “We are trying to get back the mistaken credit that we gave to students. ... I think some of the students are confused because they think we are just asking for a random \$350 [per semester], and that is not the case.”

Club Spotlight

**Name:** Phi Kappa Theta  
**Purpose:** To develop men to be effective leaders who passionately serve society, the fraternity and God.  
**Motto:** “Give, expecting nothing thereof.”  
**President:** Adam Bostan  
**Vice President/Treasurer:** Luis Chavarria  
**Secretary:** Juan Aboytes  
**Adviser:** Andrew Perez, counseling specialist II  
**Activities:** Rush Week, which took place Jan. 30 through Feb. 3.  
**Meetings:** Monday evenings; restricted to members.  
**Membership requirements:** 2.5 GPA or higher.  
**For more information, email:** luis.chavarria01@utrgv.edu or irving.guerrero01@utrgv.edu  
**Website:** www.Phikaps.org  
**Facebook:** UTRGV Phi Kaps  
*--Compiled by Lesley Robles*

*Want your club featured? Email us at [TheRider@utrgv.edu](mailto:TheRider@utrgv.edu) or call us at 882-5143 in Brownsville and 665-2541 in Edinburg!*

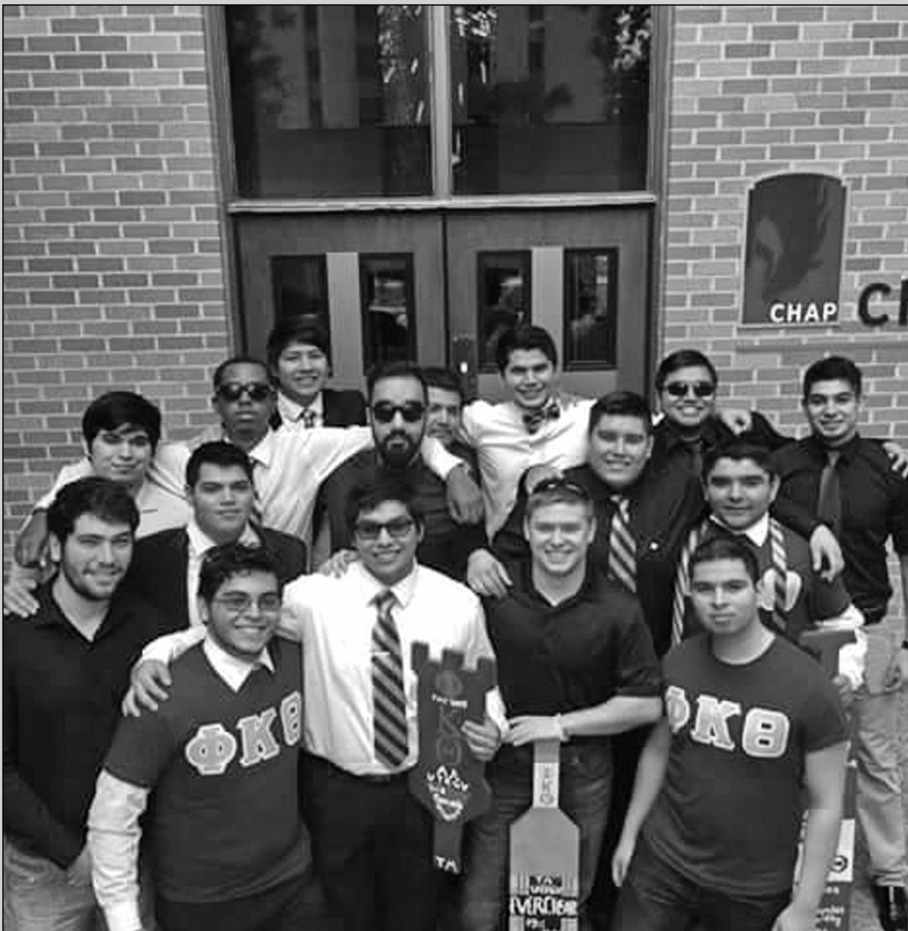


PHOTO COURTESY ANDREW ALVIAR

Members of the Phi Kappa Theta fraternity include (front row, from left) Jose Padilla, Irving Guerrero, Luis Chavarria, Michael McRae and Rene Rios. Back row: Daniel Castañeda, Alex Delgado, Austin Butler, Esteban Casas, Adam Bostan, Eli Ruiz, Luis Santos, Hector Flores, Robert Treviño, Cesar Fuentes and Joel Salazar.

COX

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

live more truthfully.”

During her speech, Cox often brought up the phrase, “Man, woman, both, neither, it’s all good.”

Asked what the phrase meant to her, Cox replied: “For me, it’s about acknowledging non-binary people. It’s really important when we talk about gender that we understand that it exists on a spectrum and that it is all good, no matter how you identify.”

Cox spoke about how she battled the feeling of shame.

“For me, so much of my life, it was the shame stuff,” she said. “Shame will kill you. Shame is linked to addiction, depression, suicide, these things that keep us from surviving. For me, saying, ‘It’s all good, it’s about me.’ I have this message, when I get to stand up and share my story. It’s a reminder to me.”

Cox will star in the CBS show “Doubt,” which premieres Wednesday.

“I’m shooting my new show ‘Doubt,’ so I’ve been doing these talks,” she said. “What’s wonderful to get on the road and meet all these young people is that it’s a reminder to me: You can’t keep it if you don’t give it away.”

“I have to love myself more. My gender is OK, and to say that in front of 900 people that I’m not beautiful despite my voice. I watch these videos of me and I’ll think, ‘Oh my God, my voice is so deep,’ and I’ve gotta think to myself, ‘Wait, Laverne, this is beautiful, this is your voice.’ The shame is insidious, baffling and cunning, but it’s a reminder for me. It’s healing for me.”

CONSTRUCTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

efforts in electrical, mechanical and civil engineering.

Expansion of the engineering department at UTRGV is key to the economic development of the Valley.

“We want to be in everybody’s backyard and really have an explosive growth on it because we’re a key to basically increasing economic development opportunities in the Valley,” Domijan said. “Our engineers don’t have to seek employment outside the Valley [anymore].”

As for university events and

fundraising that will happen during the year and a half of construction, other areas of campus will be available.

“There are more than 20 locations in Edinburg that are designated for fundraising,” said Delma Olivarez, interim associate dean of Student Life.

“There are two areas near the Ballroom, two near the business building, and so I feel pretty confident that student organizations will have a lot of other opportunities. I know the library tends to be one of the most high-traffic areas for fundraising.”

Locations such as the Chapel lawn and the lobby in the ELABS building are just a couple of places that are available for events.

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# Face-lift on the diamond

## UTRGV's new players hope to improve team



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Left-hand hurler Josh Witherspoon pitches during an intrasquad scrimmage last Tuesday at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium. Witherspoon joins the team as a junior transfer from Crisco College.

### Nathaniel Mata

SPORTS EDITOR

The UTRGV Baseball Team looks a lot different than it did at the end of last season. Around half of the 30-man team is new to the program.

“We had a lot of guys graduate last year,” Head Coach Manny Mantrana said. “The new guys that we brought in, they’ve meshed well with the returners. We’re definitely gonna be a lot faster and a lot more athletic than last year. In that regard, as far as buying into what we’re doing--being more athletic, having more team speed-- those are all good things.”

UTRGV is trying to earn its first overall winning season since 2012 and its second conference record above .500.

Even though the Vaqueros are entering the season with many new faces, two top hitters will return.

Seniors Jose Garcia and Joseph Collazo led the Vaqueros in hitting a year ago and they will be counted upon again. Last year, Garcia led UTRGV in batting average (.369), on base percentage (.447) and runs scored (38). Last week, he was elected to the preseason All-WAC team by head coaches in the conference.

Collazo also hit over .300 at the plate, .409 on base percentage and 56 on the season.

He will be counted on heavily this season, but that doesn’t mean he’s changing his approach.

“No added pressure or anything,” Collazo said. “Just go out there and play my game kind of thing. It helps our guys last year were good but we got better talent this year, so I think we’re going to hit as a team better this year.”

Again, the team is filled with an influx of junior college transfers, which also has positives, according to Collazo, who transferred to UTRGV from Broward College last year.

“It definitely helps that they’re from junior college, because at least they have college baseball experience,” Collazo said. “It’s a little different when you come right out of high school. There is a transition, the game’s a little faster. I think in the fall they saw that and I think they’ll be ready.”

One newcomer looking to make an immediate impact is true freshman Anibal Leal. The La Joya High School alum owned an impressive stat line during the course of his time with the Coyotes, including a .449 batting average and 102 RBIs.

Leal is motivated to work hard in

hopes he can pitch in right away.

“Just motivates me to try get some playing time and help out my team,” he said. “It’s tough because they expected a lot from me, and I like that; I like to get motivated, I’m just trying to push.”

The 6-foot-3-inch first baseman will likely back up senior Victor Garcia Jr. this season and try to soak up as much experience as he can.

There are question marks all over the pitching staff. Every pitcher who threw more than 50 innings last year is gone. The Vaqueros pitching staff is also hit hard by players leaving the program. They are counting on transfers and a few returners to get batters on edge.

“We’ve got six guys that are vying for those four starting jobs, three on the weekend and one midweek,” Mantrana said. “The other two guys are going to play a key role for us out of the bullpen.”

Mantrana is pleased with the progress of his pitching staff, including a specific righty transfer from the Big Ten Conference.



Outfielder Jose Garcia returns a ball during an intrasquad scrimmage last Tuesday at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium.

## COACH OF THE WEEK



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER

**Name:** Larry Tidwell  
**Sport:** Women’s Basketball  
**Title:** Head Coach  
**Years coaching:** 41 (three with the program)  
**Hometown:** Sanger, a city north of Dallas  
**What’s your favorite part of coaching basketball?** “Recruiting, coaching the games and teaching the game.”  
**What’s your favorite place to eat off campus?** “La Olla down on the square in Edinburg.”  
**How was the adjustment going from athlete to coach?** “I made it so long ago, I forgot. I’ve been coaching 41 years and it’s a whole different thing. You just try to be mentally ready for practice, so you can teach 15 people. You’re worried about those people, whereas an athlete you just worry about what you need to get done.”  
**How do you feel coaching this team?** “Coaching this team has been a journey this year. We’ve had some ups, we’ve had some downs. We’re trying to get more consistent. We’re trying to get set on a lineup because I’ve lost some players to injuries and suspension.”  
**Who is your favorite music artist?** “My favorite music artist without question is The Temptations because I just like the fact that the music is really good to listen to and I can understand the words.”  
**Where would you go on your dream vacation?** “I would go back to Iceland. Iceland is a great place.”  
--Compiled by Sarah Carvajal

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MARIO GONZALEZ

**Rebeca Ortiz**  
THE RIDER

The exact origin of Valentine's Day is unknown. One legend says Roman Emperor Claudius II had prohibited his soldiers from marrying because he thought married men didn't make good soldiers. Some soldiers defied the emperor and went to St. Valentine, a Roman priest, to marry in secret. It is said that after the priest was sentenced to death, couples would visit him in his prison cell and give him flowers and letters. Legend says he died on Feb. 14 of A.D. 469. The other, more accepted belief is that the holiday marks the day that "birds begin to pair," or choose their mate. Commercially, marketing of the holiday begins after Christmas. "I think it's interesting that most people expect something on Valentine's Day, that most people expect to celebrate Valentine's Day, especially

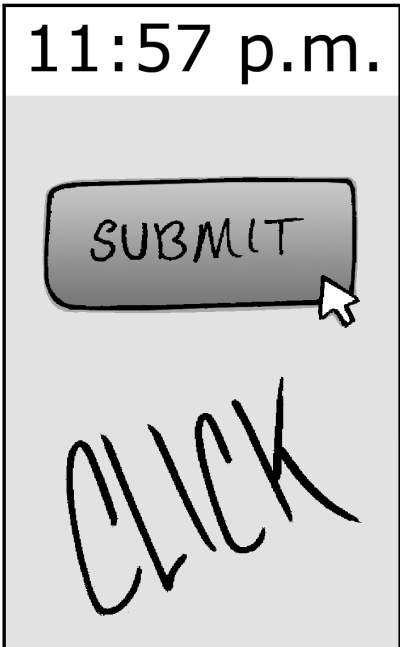
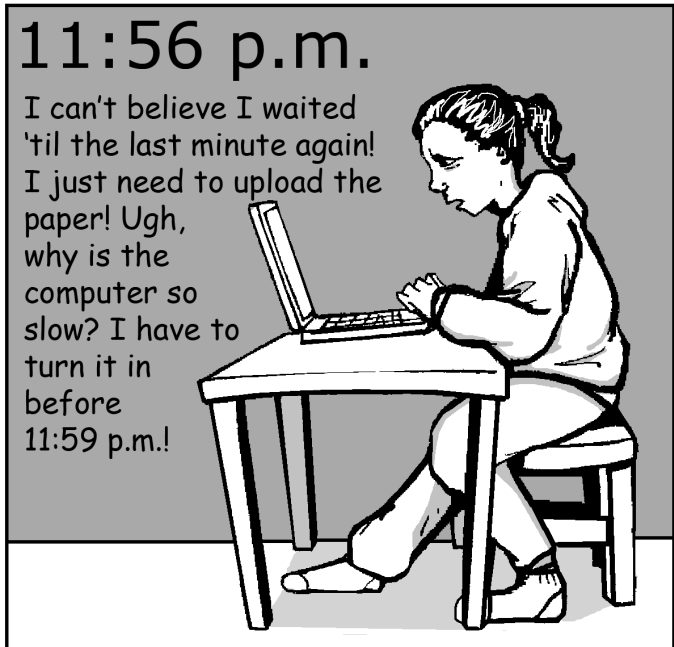
those in couples," said Amie Bostic, an assistant professor of sociology and anthropology at UTRGV. According to the National Retail Federation, U.S. consumers are expected to spend \$18.2 billion on this year's Valentine's Day, or an average of \$136.57 per person. Americans between the ages of 25 and 34 years old are the most likely age demographic to participate (64.3 percent). In regard to spending, Bostic said the holiday is "incredibly gendered." "Men spend almost twice as much as women on Valentine's Day and what they buy is very gendered," she said. "Men buy flowers for women. Women don't buy flowers for men. Women tend to buy candy for men." Bostic said another important aspect associated with the gender difference in Valentine's Day, and also why men spend so much more, is that there is some sort of social exchange happening. "Is it really worth spending \$150 effectively to get sex? No, especially when there is no real meaning behind

it," Bostic said. "... Men might think that Valentine's Day is stupid, but they also realize that if they don't celebrate Valentine's Day with their partner, or their girlfriend, or the girl they like, that she is gonna be mad, she's gonna be disappointed because the expectation is that something will happen, and he might miss out on the other benefits of Valentine's Day." A local priest explained the spiritual side of the holiday. The Rev. Juan Pablo de Jesús Dávalos, of the Parish of the Lord of Divine Mercy in Brownsville, says the true meaning of this day starts with "this sense of being able to provide and serve a partner with benevolence and love." Dávalos said the commercialism of the holiday obscures its true meaning. "Nowadays, if you pay attention, it's more commercial, there is more you have to buy, there is more you have to obtain, but you forget the true sense, which is the respect that should exist between partners, the love you have to keep fighting for, the love you need to

keep cultivating," he said. Ingrid de la Torre, a nursing freshman, said this is a day "in which love is celebrated, not only the love among a couple but also the love among friends." "It is a day in which we express the love we feel for everyone," de la Torre said, adding that it's not just about buying gifts. "For me, it's about celebrating the love, not only with the people whom you get along with, but with the people you run into on the street and the people you don't get along with. It is about demonstrating love towards everyone." Dávalos said, "For me, every day should be Valentine's Day," Dávalos said. "In other words, a day of love, and I think that would make couples very different. But sadly, they leave it mostly for once a year, and then the love, the kindness, the respect starts to dry up, to wither and, lamentably, that's why we experience so much division in our relationships."

## Trials and Trifles

By Clarissa Martinez





# Listen To

# UTRGV

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## Broadcast Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:30-11:30 a.m. "By the Issues" -J.C.	10:30-11:30 a.m. "Girl's Coven" -Sarah	9-10 a.m. "Taking Flight" -Brian	10:30-11:30 a.m. "Coffee Talk" -Alex	9-10 a.m. "Morning Set Back" -Melissa
12:30-1:30 p.m. "Ruben's Show" -Ruben	12-1 p.m. "13th Take" -Dan	1-2 p.m. "That Metal Couple" -Nate Puente	12-1 p.m. "Heavy Metal Mania" -Nate Puente	10:30-11:30 a.m. "Embrace the Rock" -Alex
2-3 p.m. "People of UTRGV" -Andrea	2-3 p.m. "Gamertalk" -J.C.	3-4 p.m. "Sync" -Alvaro	2-3 p.m. "Electrorock" -Lexie	12-1 p.m. "Dropping Knowledge" -Abraham
4:30-5:30 p.m. "New Game +" -Nate Mata & Gabe Mata	4:30-5:30 p.m. "Untitled Thoughts" -Chris		4-5 p.m. "The Gud Vibes Mix" -Ryan	2-3 p.m. "Live and Local" -Lexie, Adrian & Melissa

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Calendar of Events at  
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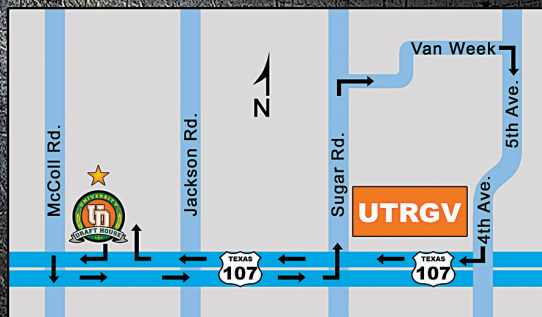


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